YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

おやすみプンプン ❺

浅野いにお

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❺

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YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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雑誌 45364-30　小学館

小学館
YSC-0430

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YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

4巻までのあらすじ

小野寺プンプンは、胸キュンガール・
田中愛子とのやり取りの中でアレやコレ等の
何とも言えない気持ちから心の距離を置くことに。
二年後、中学三年のプンプンは
高校の合格発表に出かける。

登場人物

小野寺プンプン
チョコパイ好きのヤングガイ。中学3年。
好きな決まり手は合掌捻り。

小野寺プンプンママ
プンプンの母親。若い頃、某化粧品メーカーの
イメージガールオーディションに応募するが書類選考で落選。

小野寺雄一
プンプンママの弟。陶芸教室の先生。現在失踪中。

田中愛子
プンプンの好きだった女の子。現在特に交流なし。

大隈翠
雄一の彼女。喫茶店経営。プンプンとほぼ同居中。

関真澄
プンプンの同級生。中学卒業後は進学の予定なし。

清水
プンプンの同級生。関とは幼稚園のときからの幼なじみ。

湯上
プンプンママの離婚問題を担当した弁護士。雄一の友人。

としき
街に住み着く妖精。

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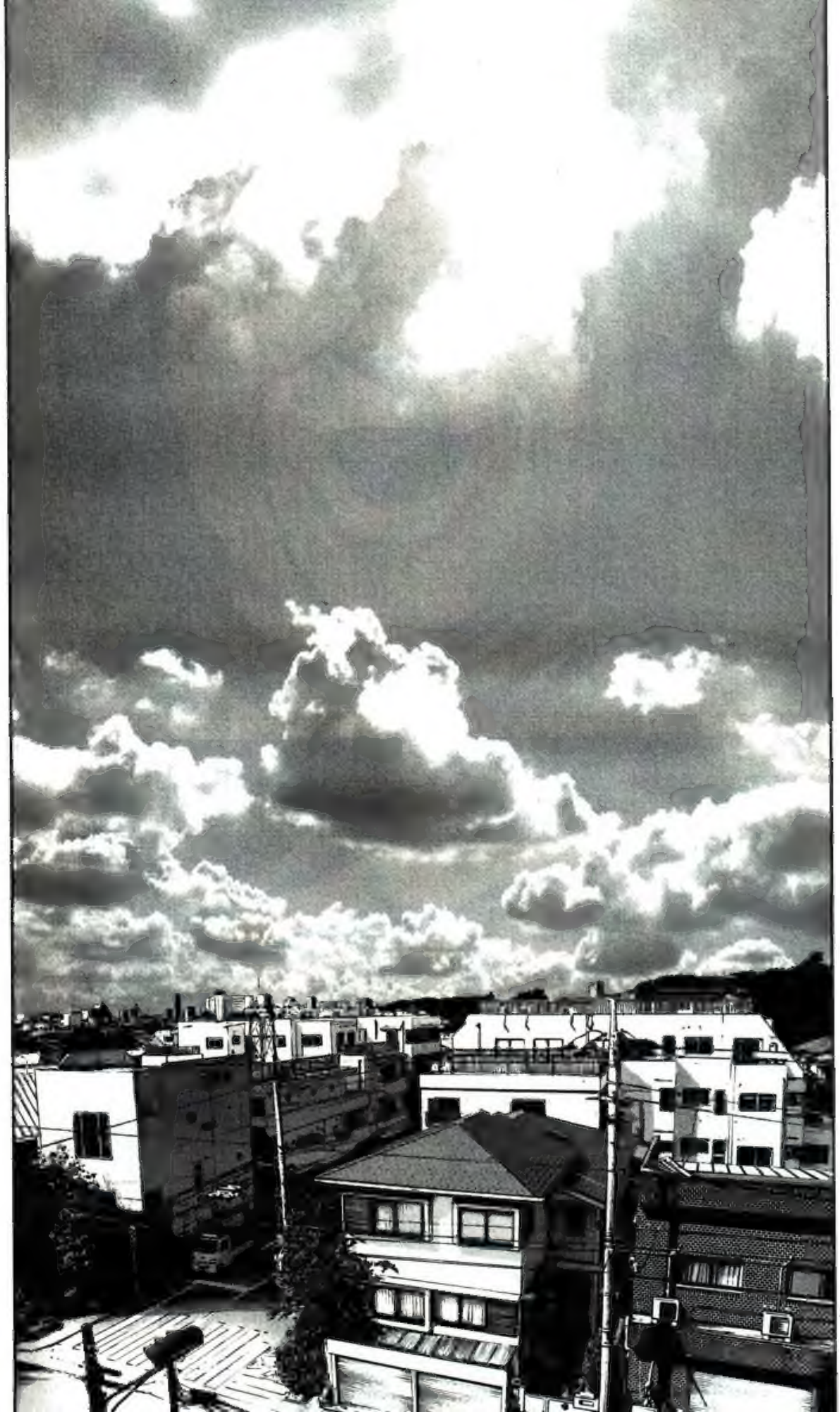
第47話

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第一高等学校
一般合格者発表

PUNPUN WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY.

TO THINK THAT MY SON GOT IN SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL!!
HAHH!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I PINCH MY CHEEKS, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
IT'S A TRAGEDY THAT I CAN'T BRAG ABOUT THIS TO EVERY JAPANESE ON EARTH!!

...HIS ACCEPTANCE WAS JUST A NATURAL RESULT FROM HIS STUDYING.

THINKING BACK ON THE LAST 2 YEARS, IT WAS NOTHING BUT MATH FORMULAS AND ENGLISH GRAMMAR WRITTEN ON THE BLACKBOARD AND HIS NOTEBOOKS.

AND THAT KURAMOTO, WHO HAD BEEN A BIG PROBLEM CHILD WHO EVEN CAUSED INJURY TO TEACHERS, WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AFTER COMMITTING ARSON.
OTHER THAN THAT, HE COULD RECALL THE RUMOR THAT SEKI APPARENTLY KNOCKED UP ONE OF THE 3 PRETTIEST GIRLS OF HIS SCHOOL AND ENDED UP SKIPPING SCHOOL FOR ABOUT A MONTH.

THOSE WERE ALL JUST THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER PEOPLE TO PUNPUN.
BUT WHAT-EVER IT WAS,

ON PUNPUN'S MIND THEN.
THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING.

I WANT TO HAVE SEX.

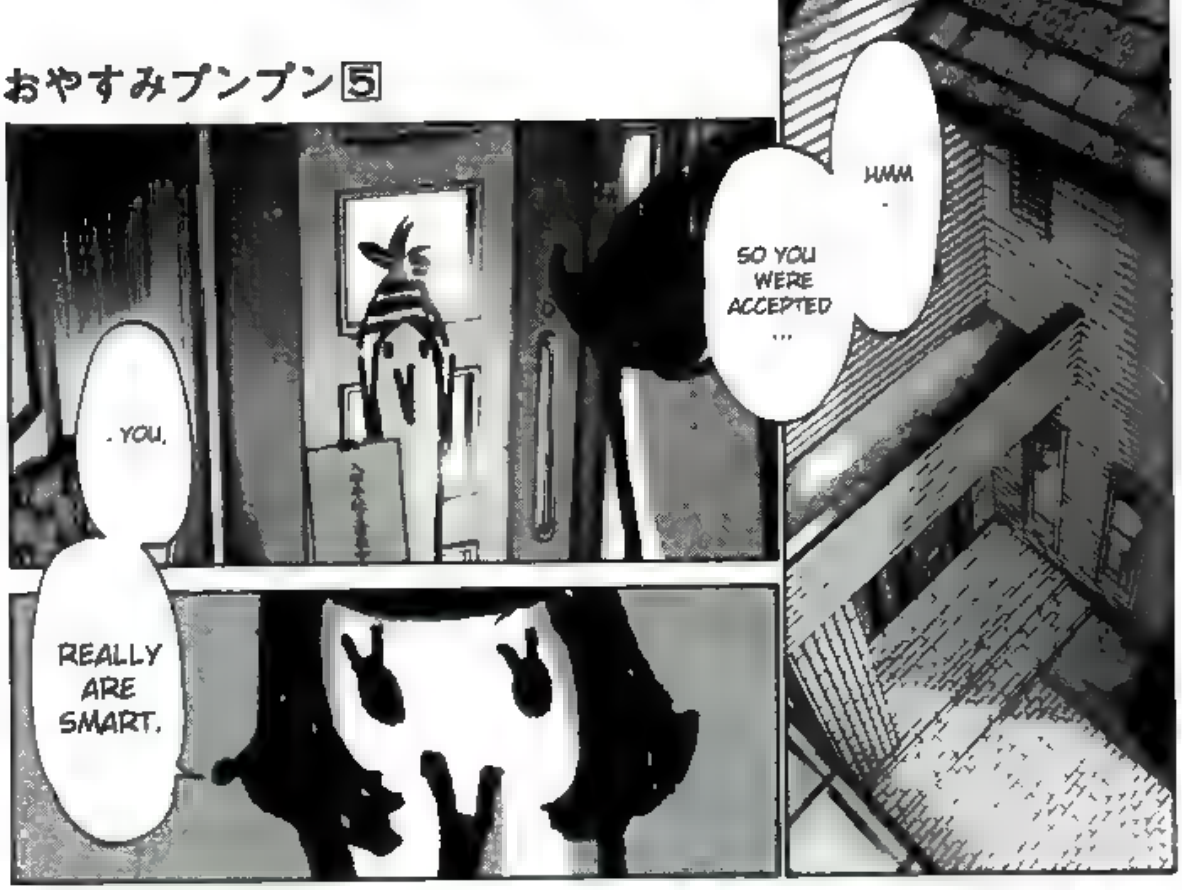
TO DO THE OLD IN-OUT.

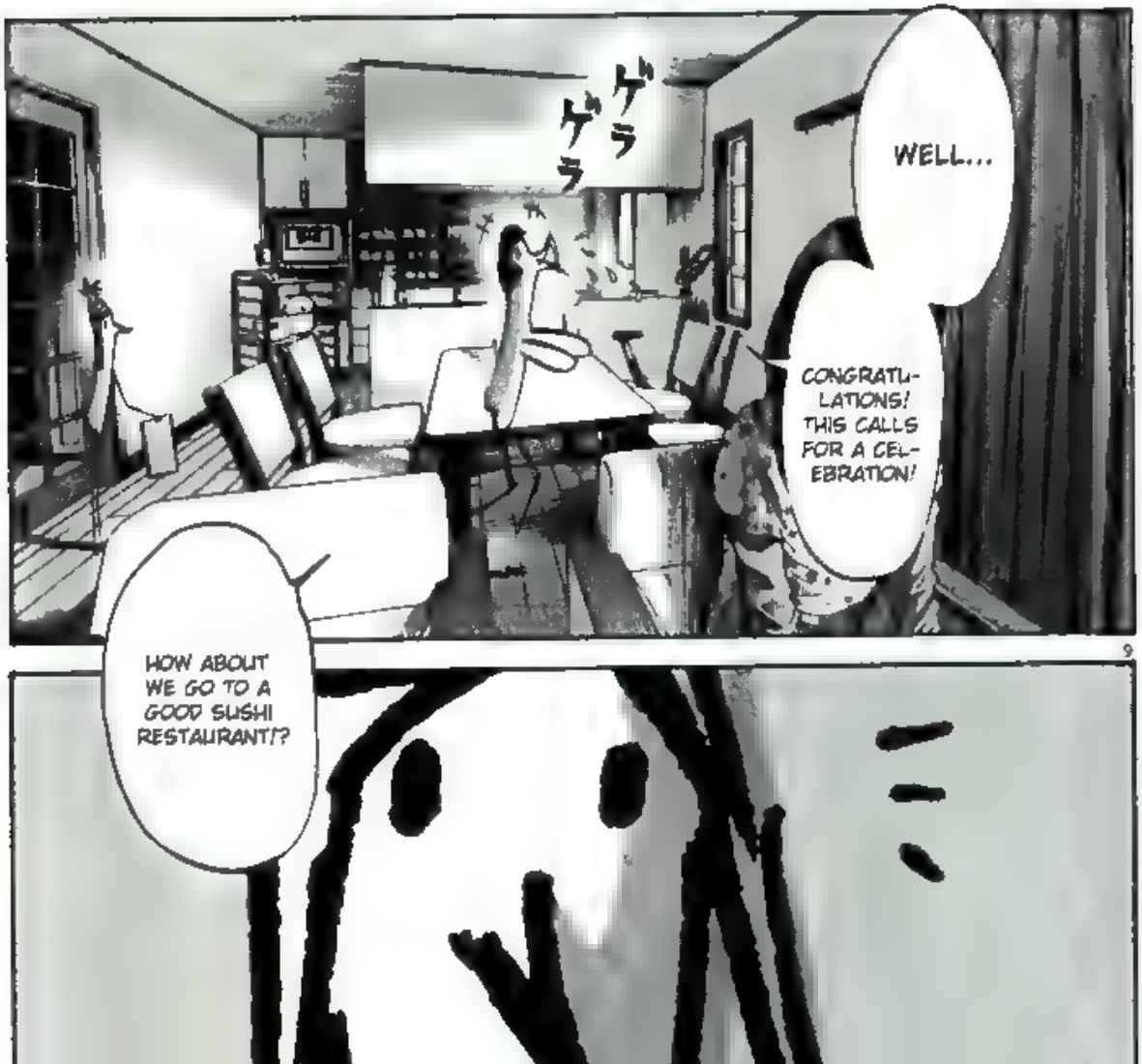
PUNPUN WAS, FOR SOME REASON, A LITTLE SICK OF THE CHEERFUL MOOD THAT SPRING BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLE IN TOWN.

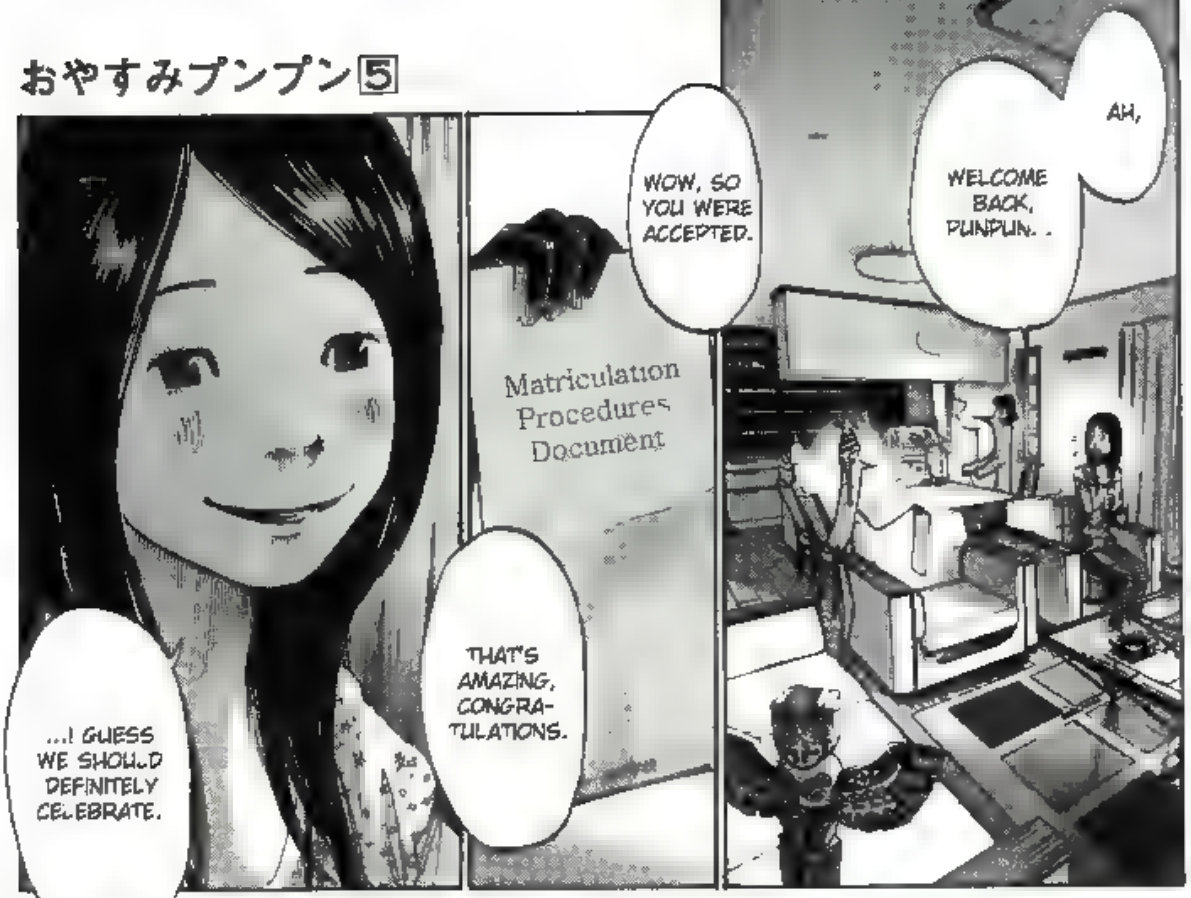
BUT WITH WHOM?

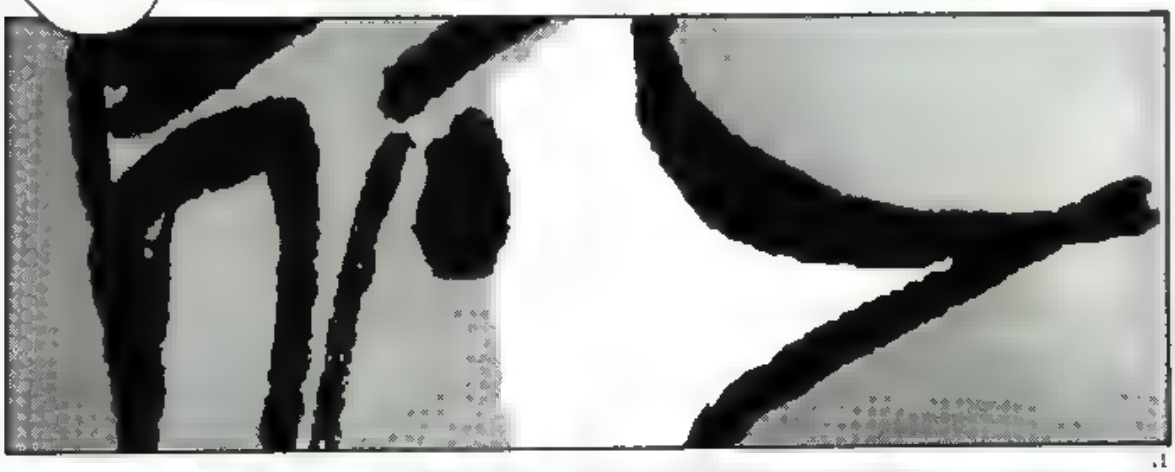
BUT PUNPUN FELT MORE OR LESS,

LIKE A FLAT TIRE.

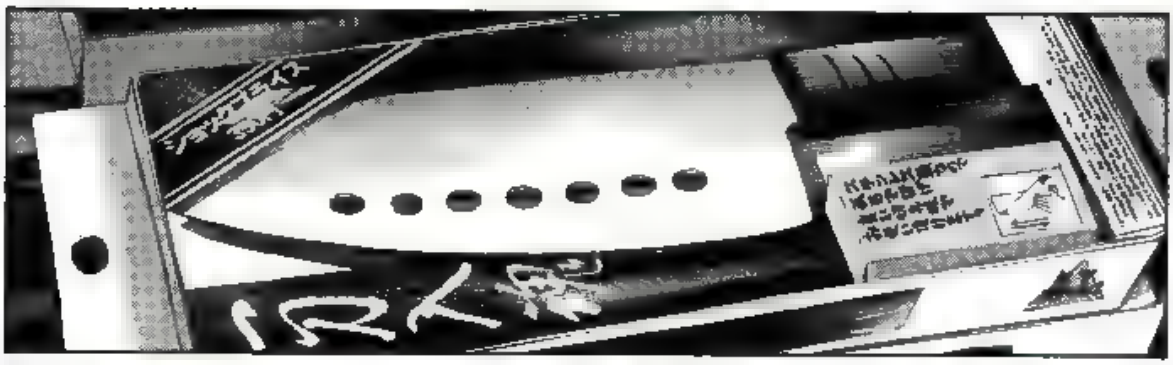

HMM.
SO YOU WERE ACCEPTED...
..YOU.
REALLY ARE SMART.


ゲラゲラ
WELL...
CONGRATULATIONS! THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!
HOW ABOUT WE GO TO A GOOD SUSHI RESTAURANT!?


AH,
WELCOME BACK, PUNPUN. .
WOW, SO YOU WERE ACCEPTED.
Matriculation Procedures Document
THAT'S AMAZING, CONGRATULATIONS.
...! GUESS WE SHOULD DEFINITELY CELEBRATE.



PUNPUN WILL BECOME,
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT STARTING THIS SPRING.



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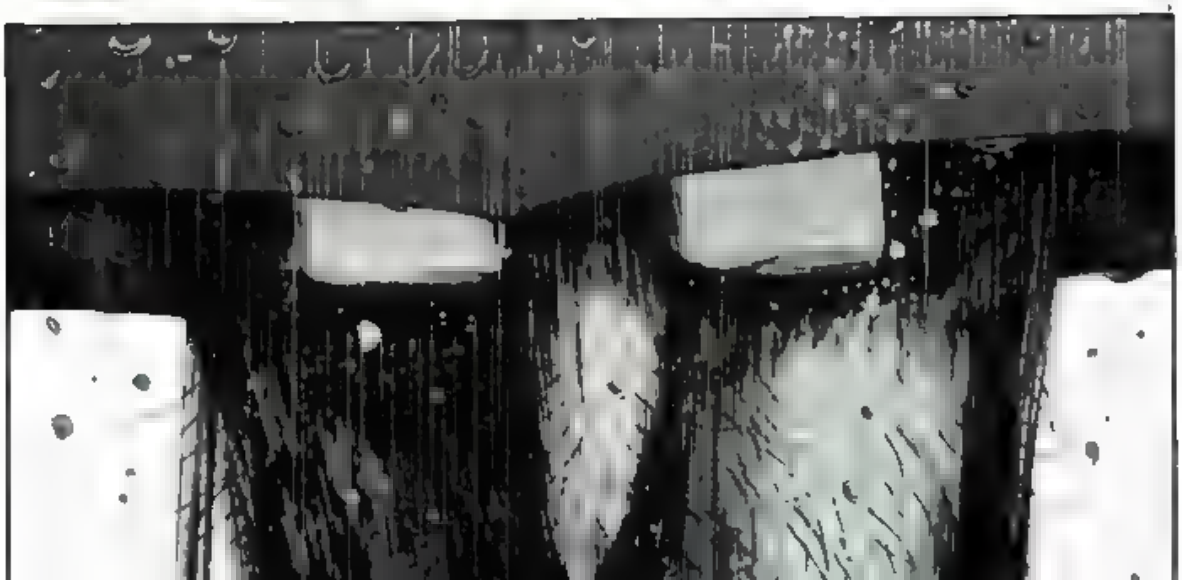

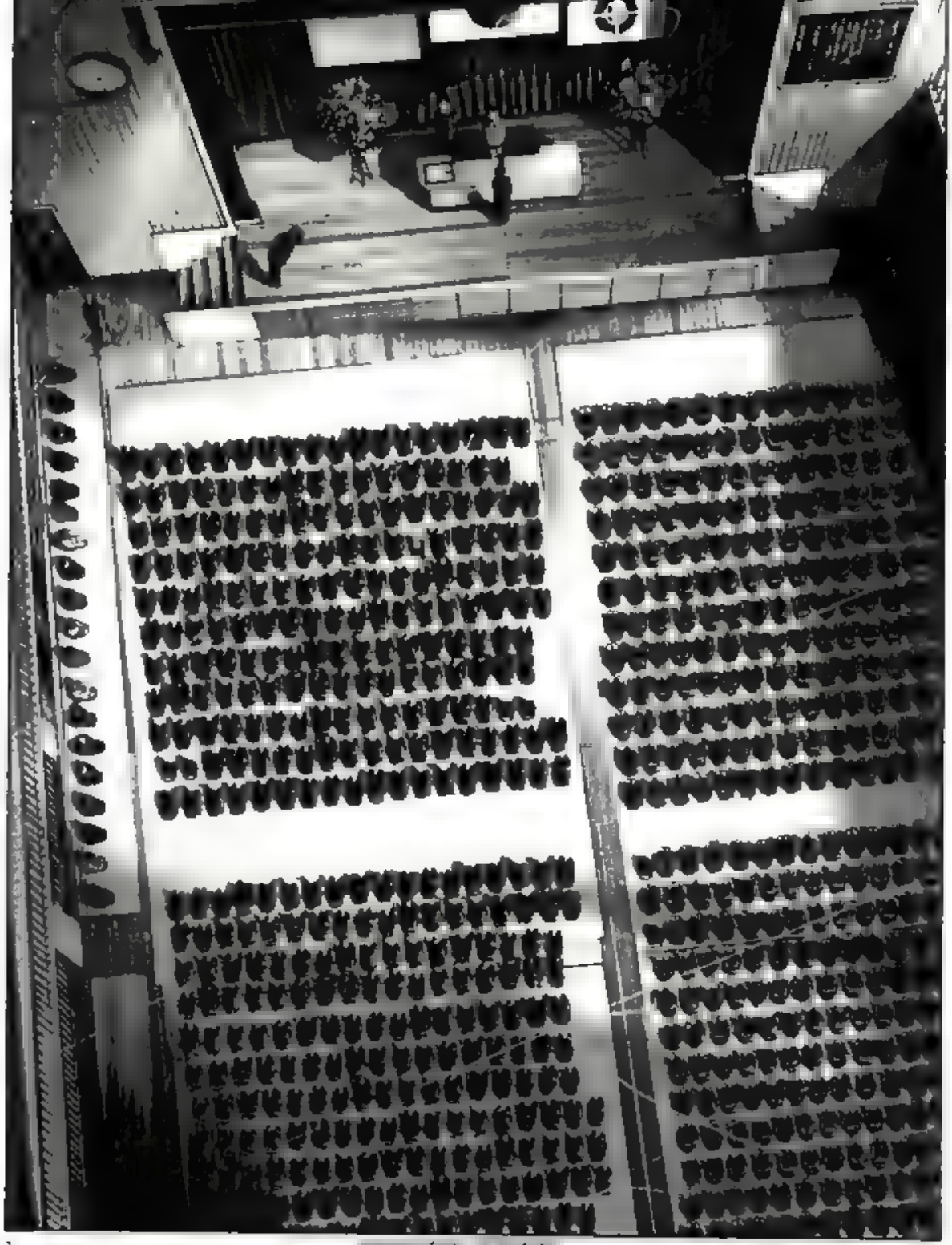

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PUNPUN DID NOT FEEL SENTIMENTAL AT ALL.

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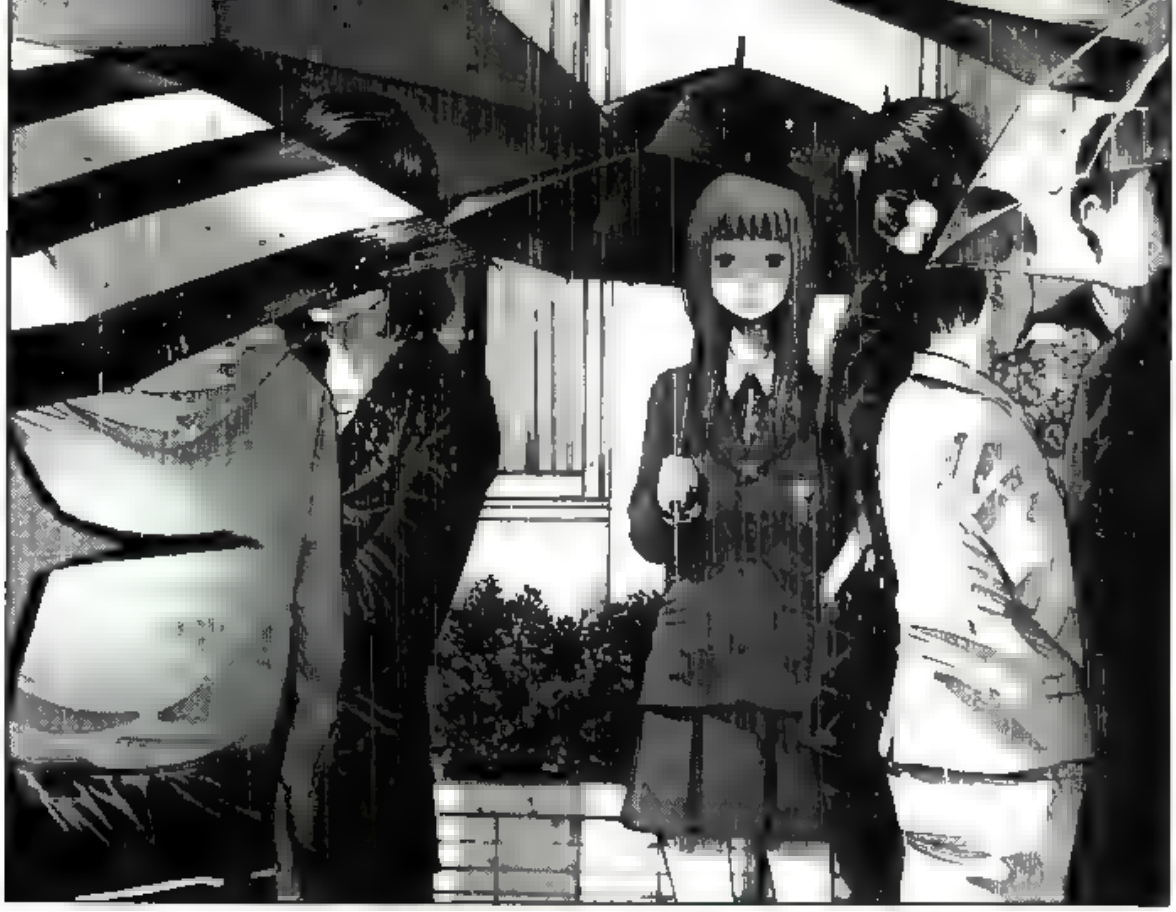
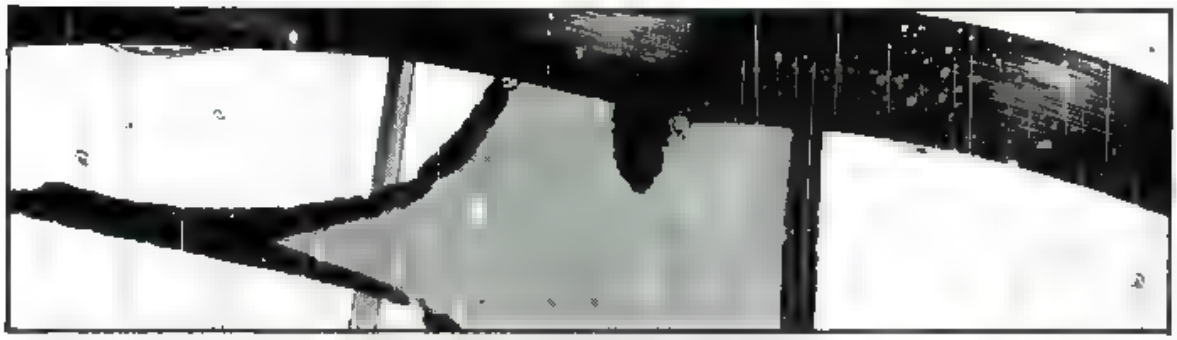
AND HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY REGRETS EITHER.





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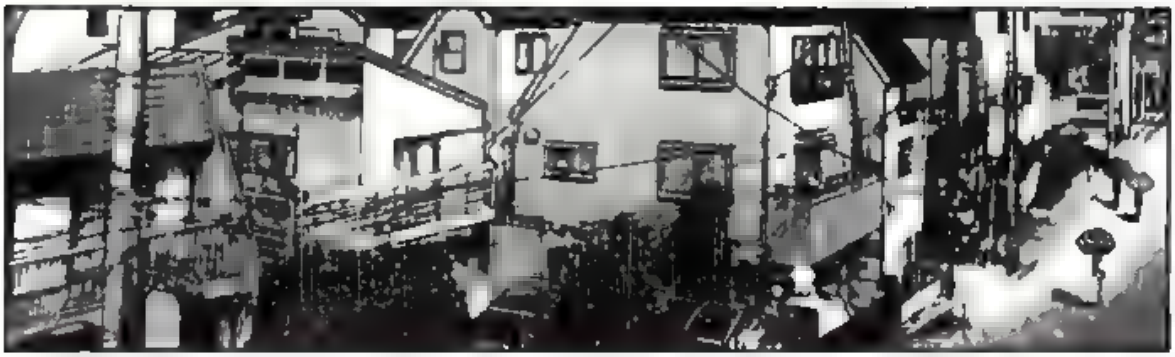
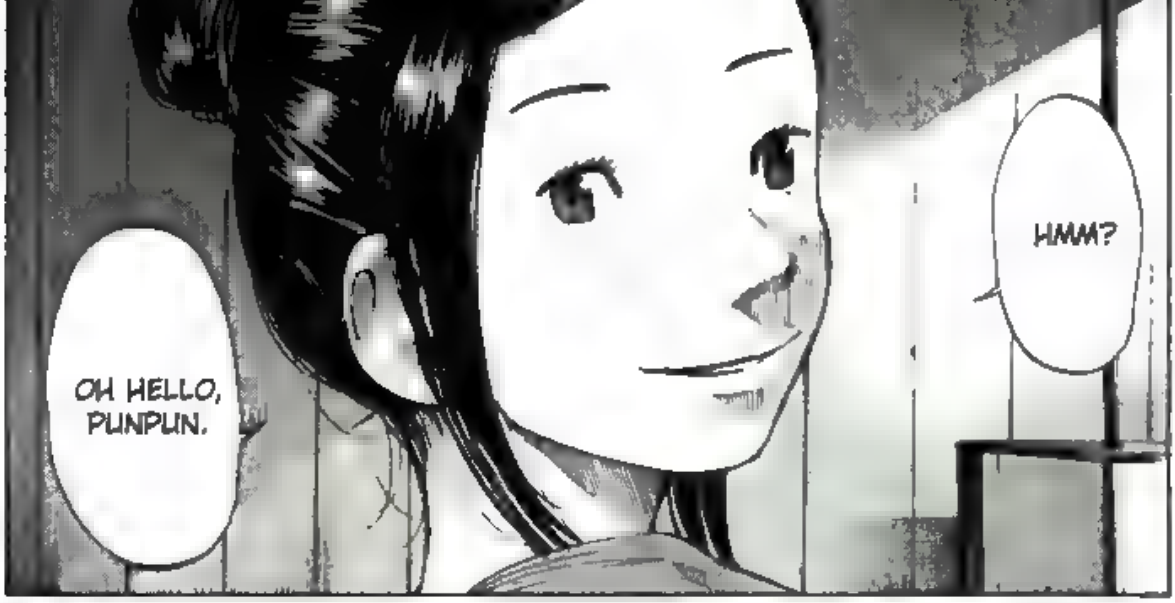



HMM?
OH HELLO, PUNPUN.

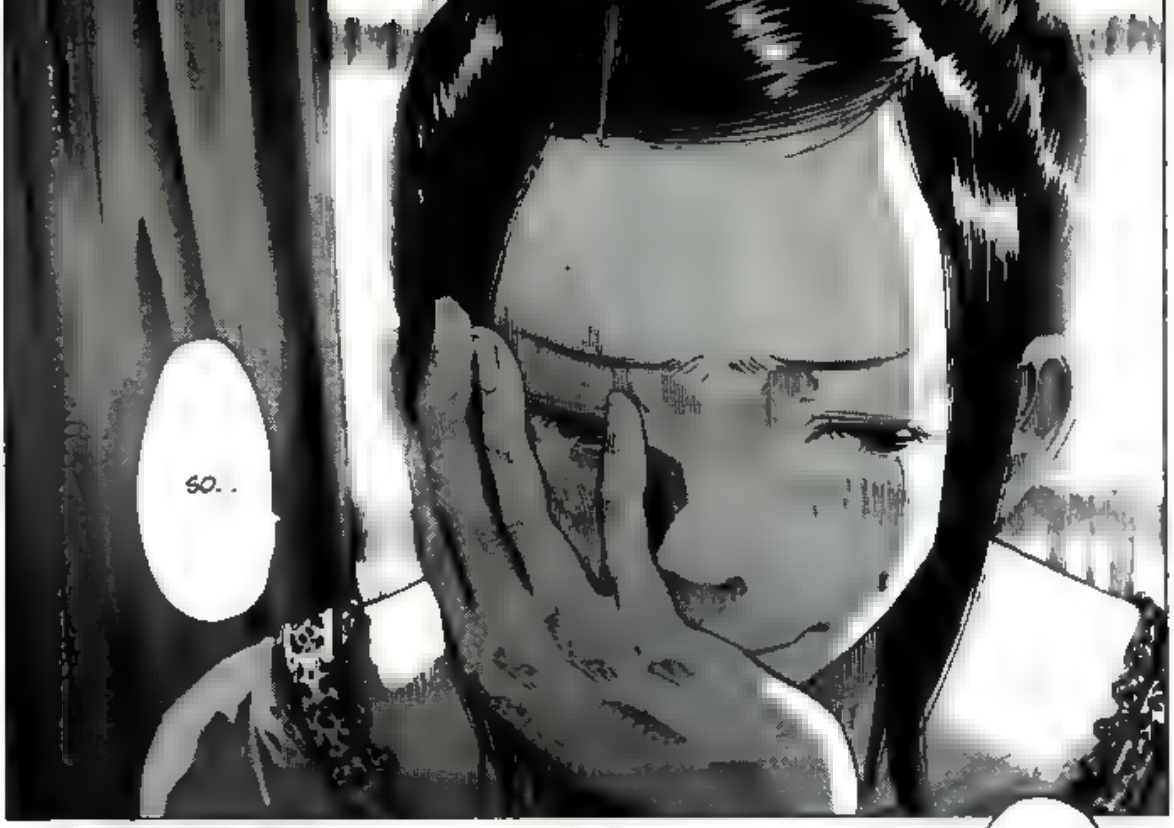
DID YOUR GRAD-UATION CEREMONY FINISH?
YOU CAN RELAX HERE AS LONG AS YOU WANT. I EVEN HAVE SOME CHOCOLATE CAKE.

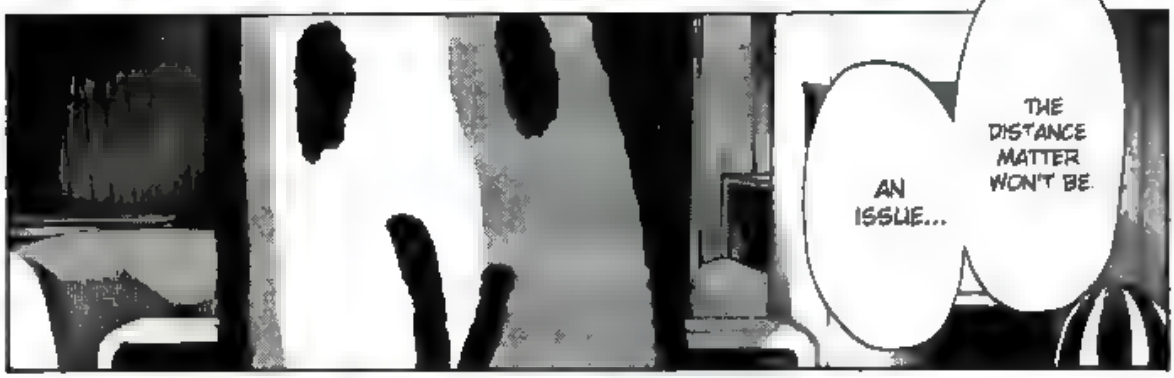
CONGRAT-ULATIONS. ON GRAD-UATING.
IT SEEMS .
TIME HAS GONE BY SO FAST .

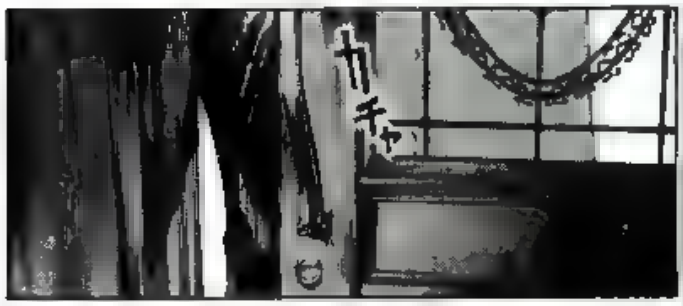
I WAS SO BUSY THE PAST YEAR AS I TRIED TO RUN THIS SHOP BY MYSELF
BUT IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.
..SO YOU'RE MOVING NEXT WEEK, HUH?
MAKE SURE TO PACK SOON THEN, PUNPUN. ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU CAN BE SUCH A LEISURELY PERSON AND TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

I DECIDED TO MOVE YUICHI'S STUFF TO HIS PARENT'S PLACE IN OOFUNA FOR THE TIME BEING
AND I'VE BEEN THINKING OF RETURNING HOME TO LIVE WITH MY PARENTS FOR THE MEANTIME AS WELL..
. AND SINCE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR NEW HOME AND THE CAFE IS SHORT ENOUGH TO COVER WITH A BIKE,

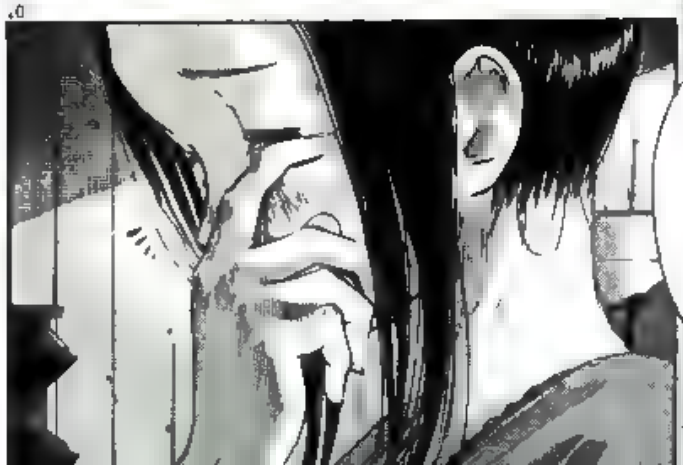
I CAN ALWAYS SEE YOUR MOTHER,
AND YOU,
WHENEVER I WANT.


SO. .


THE DISTANCE MATTER WON'T BE AN ISSUE...


カチャ

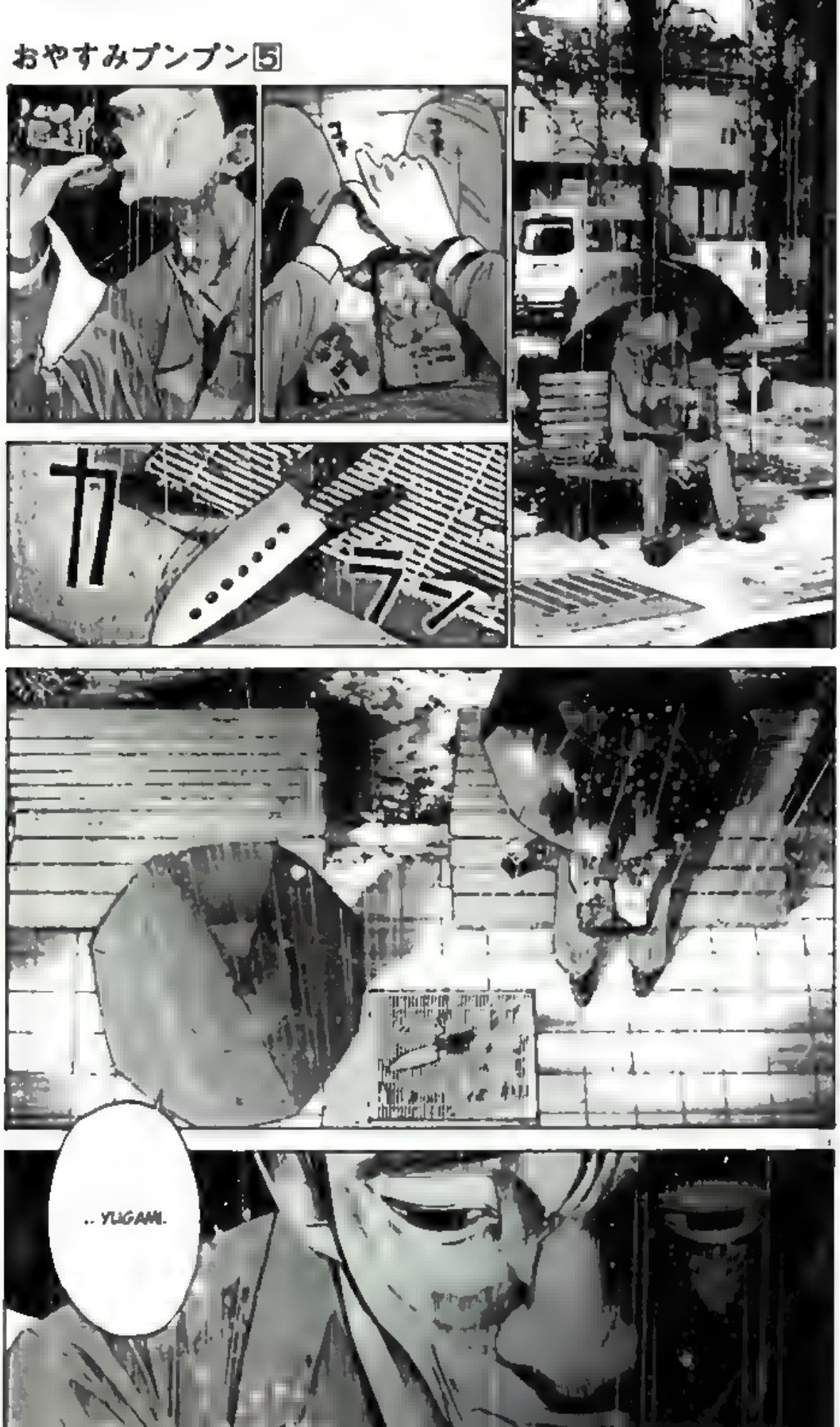
. .I'M SORRY.

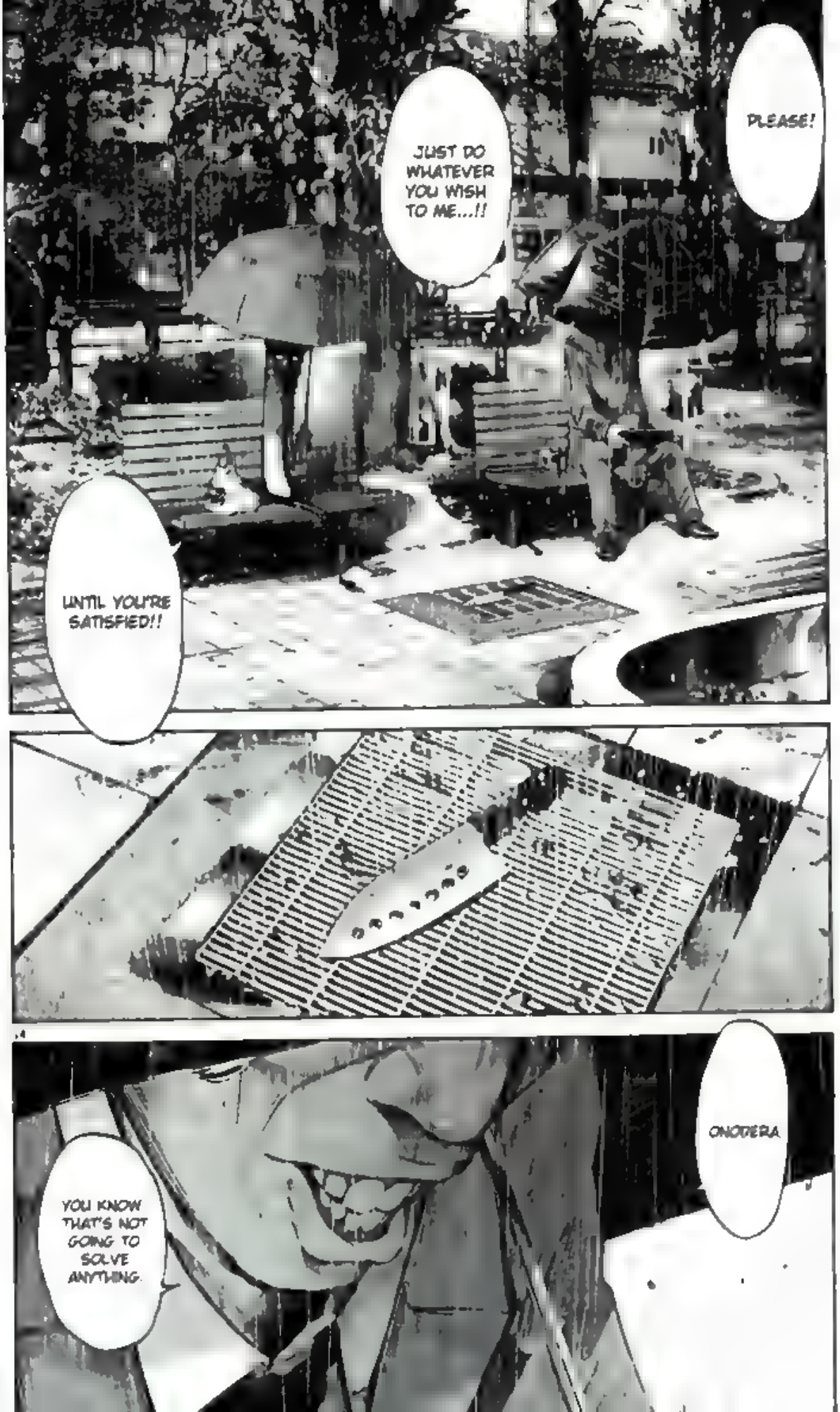

I DON'T KNOW WHY .

UMM...
WE CAME TO CHECK OUT THIS PLACE WHICH WAS ADVERTIZED ON A MAGAZINE.
AH, YES!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
PLEASE, SIT ANY-WHERE YOU LIKE.
. . THIS IS NO TIME...
TO BE FEELING SAD!!
I HAVE TO WORK MY HARDEST!
I WORKED SO HARD JUST TO GET THIS CAFE!!

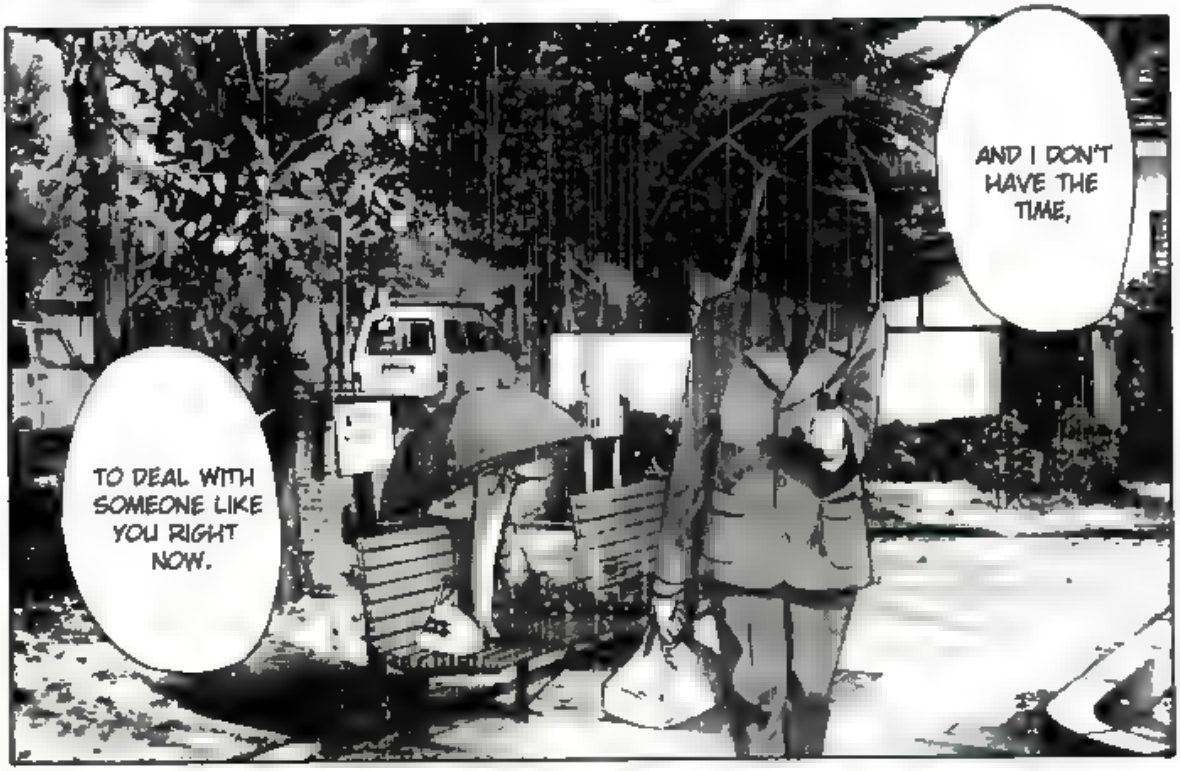
OK!
LET'S DO THIS!!
PUNPUN, PLEASE HELP ME OUT A BIT AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED EATING TOO!!

12


カ……ラン
.. YUGAMI.


PLEASE!
JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WISH TO ME...!!
UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED!!
ONOTERA
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING.

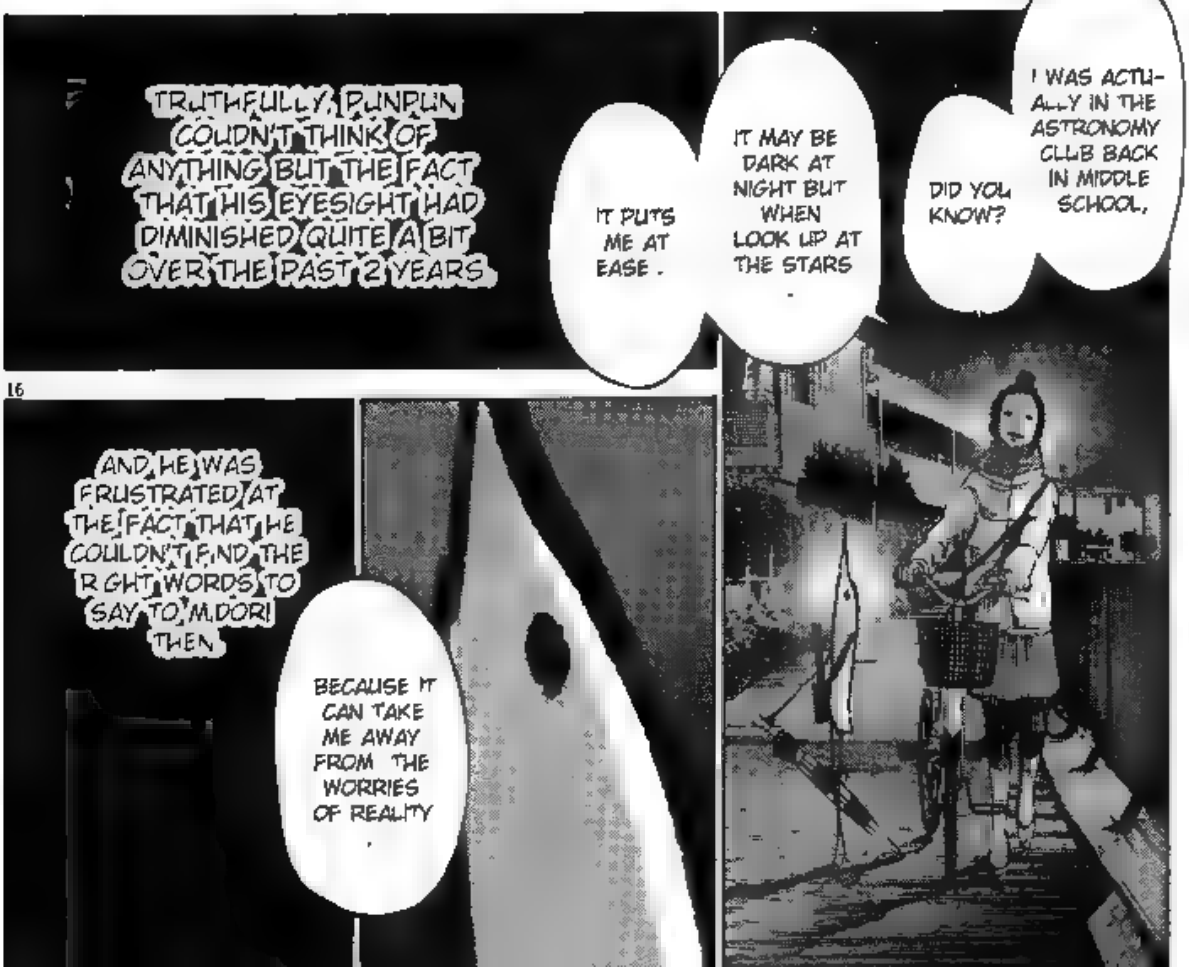
AND I DON'T REALLY RESENT YOU.


AND I DON'T HAVE THE TIME,
TO DEAL WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU RIGHT NOW.

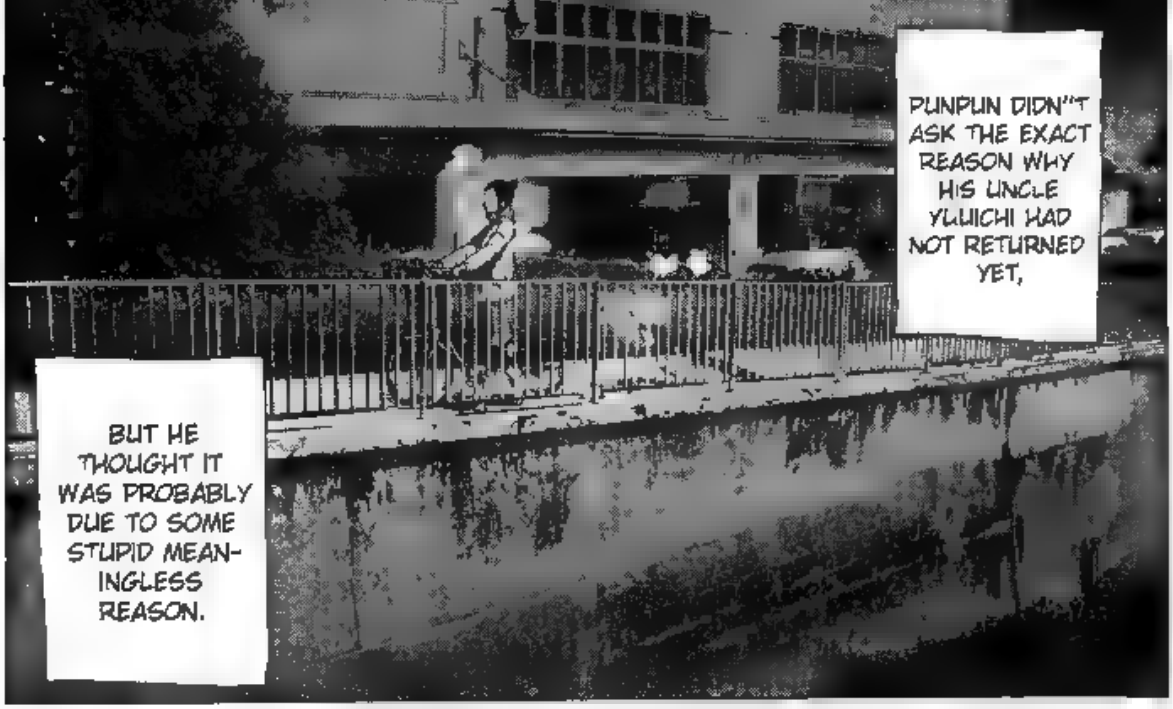
OF COURSE, IF IT'S BUSINESS YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, THAT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER.

I HAVE A HEAP OF WORK WAITING FOR ME
...I'M SORRY BUT I NEED TO GET GOING

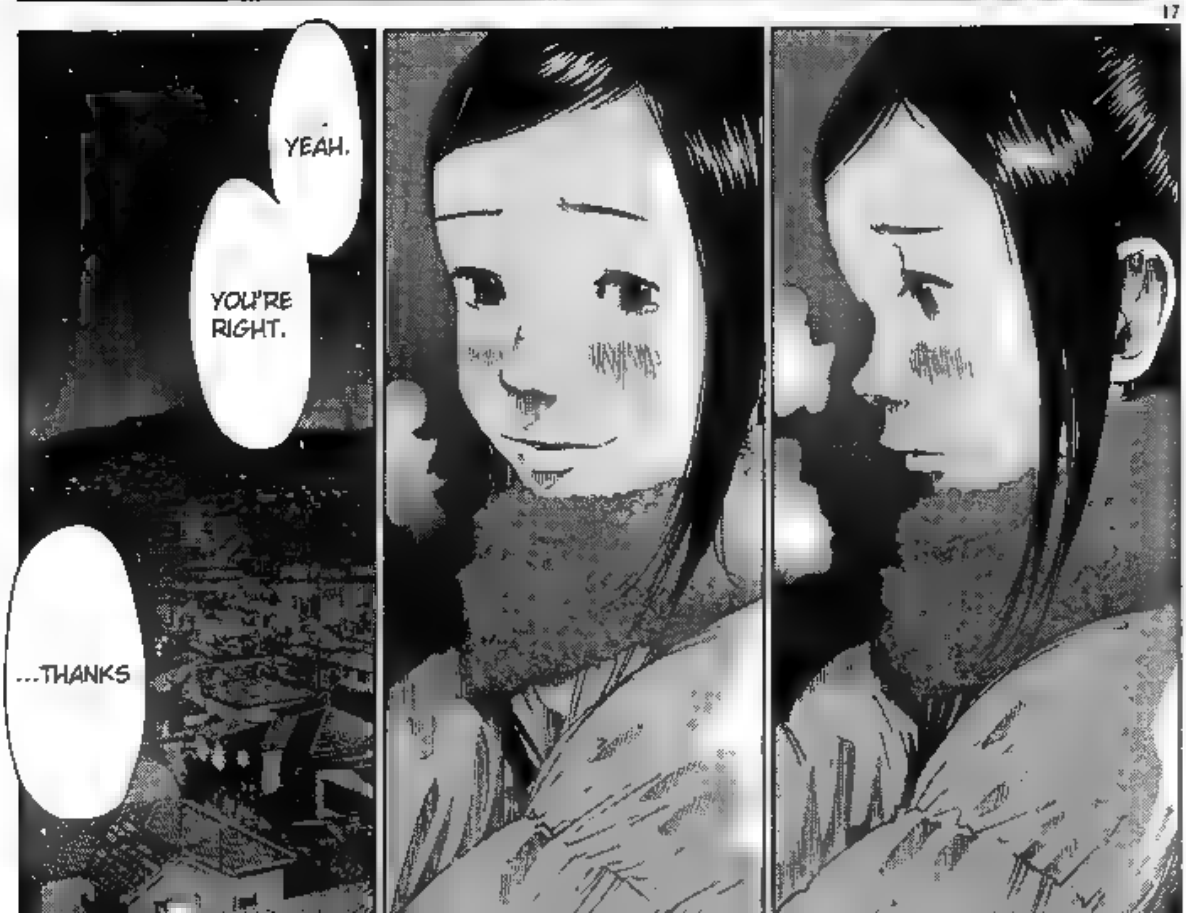
AH, THE RAIN STOPPED!
LOOK, LOOK, PUNPUN,
THE STARS ARE SO PRETTY!!

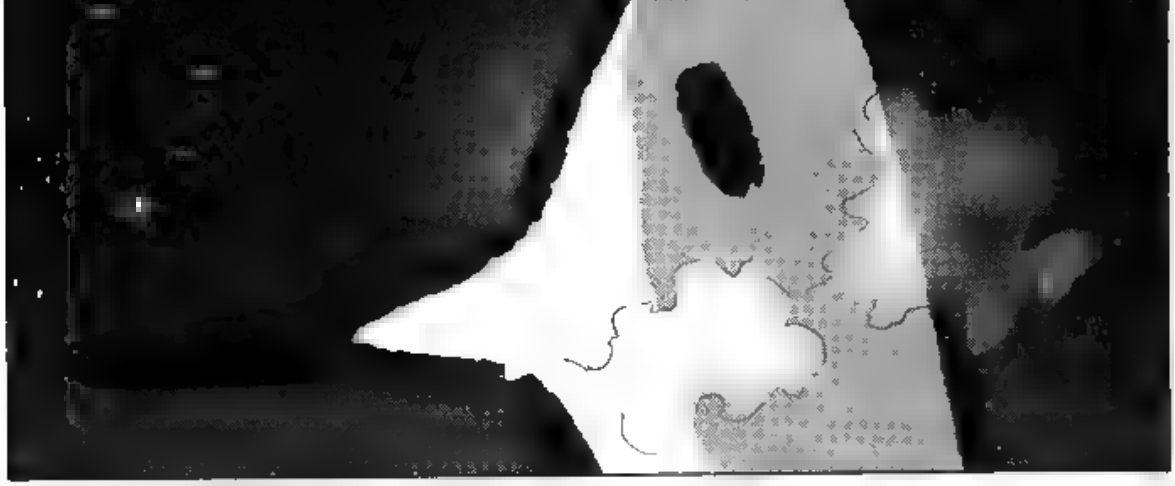

TRUTHFULLY, PUNPUN COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT THE FACT THAT HIS EYESIGHT HAD DIMINISHED QUITE A BIT OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS.
IT PUTS ME AT EASE.
IT MAY BE DARK AT NIGHT BUT WHEN LOOK UP AT THE STARS
DID YOU KNOW?
I WAS ACTUALLY IN THE ASTRONOMY CLUB BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

AND, HE WAS FRUSTRATED AT THE FACT THAT HE COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY TO M.DORI THEN.
BECAUSE IT CAN TAKE ME AWAY FROM THE WORRIES OF REALITY.

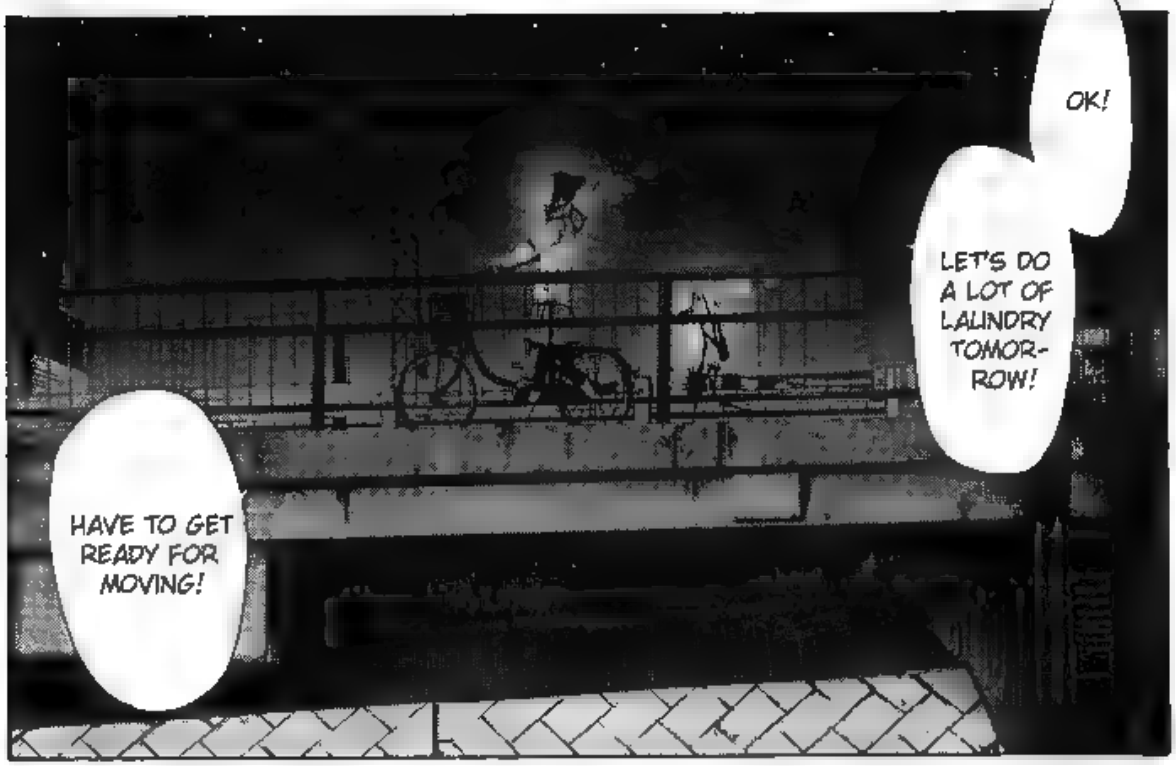

PUNPUN DIDN'T ASK THE EXACT REASON WHY HIS UNCLE YUUICHI HAD NOT RETURNED YET,
BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS PROBABLY DUE TO SOME STUPID MEAN-INGLESS REASON.

"I'M SURE UNCLE YUUICH WILL BE BACK SOON."
THAT WAS ALL PUNPUN COULD MANAGE TO SAY.


YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
...THANKS



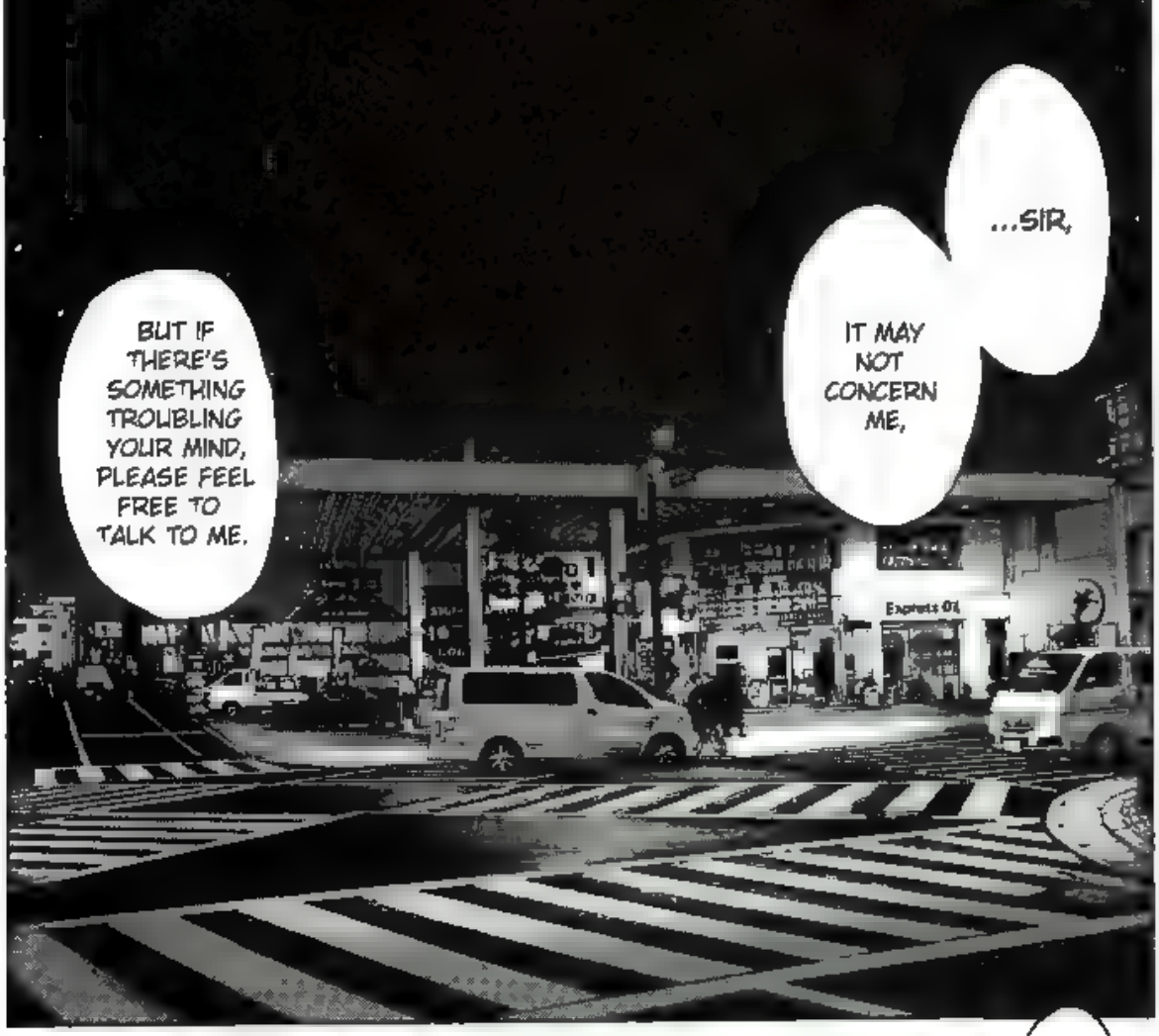
AND PRETENDING TO NOT KNOW WAS ADULT
PRETENDING TO KNOW WAS CHILDISH


OK!
LET'S DO A LOT OF LAUNDRY TOMOR-ROW!
HAVE TO GET READY FOR MOVING!

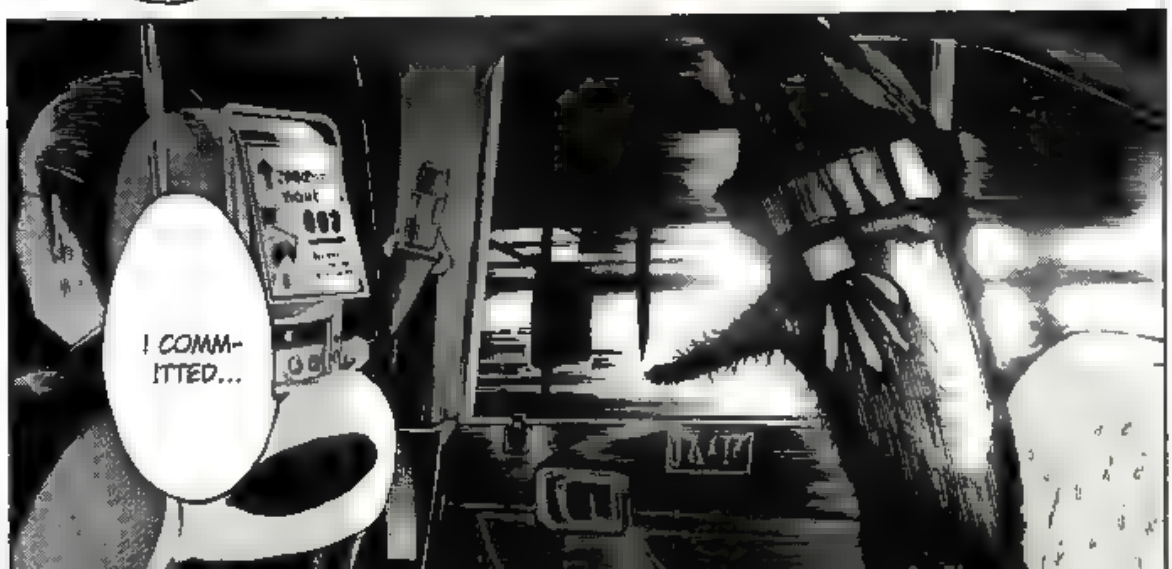
THAT HE WAS STILL PROBABLY JUST A CHILD
THEN, PUNPUN THOUGHT

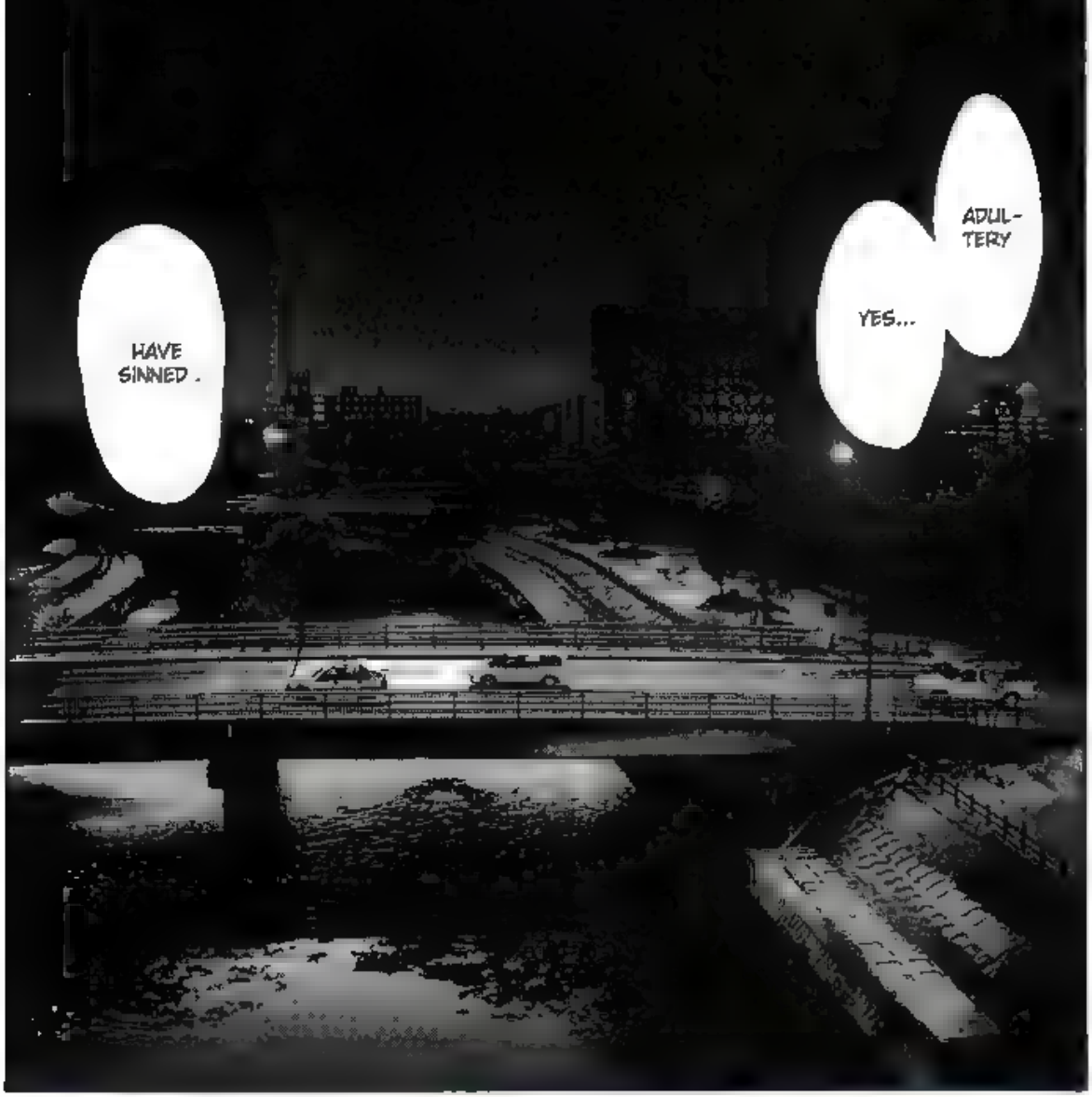
SCANLATED BY HOX

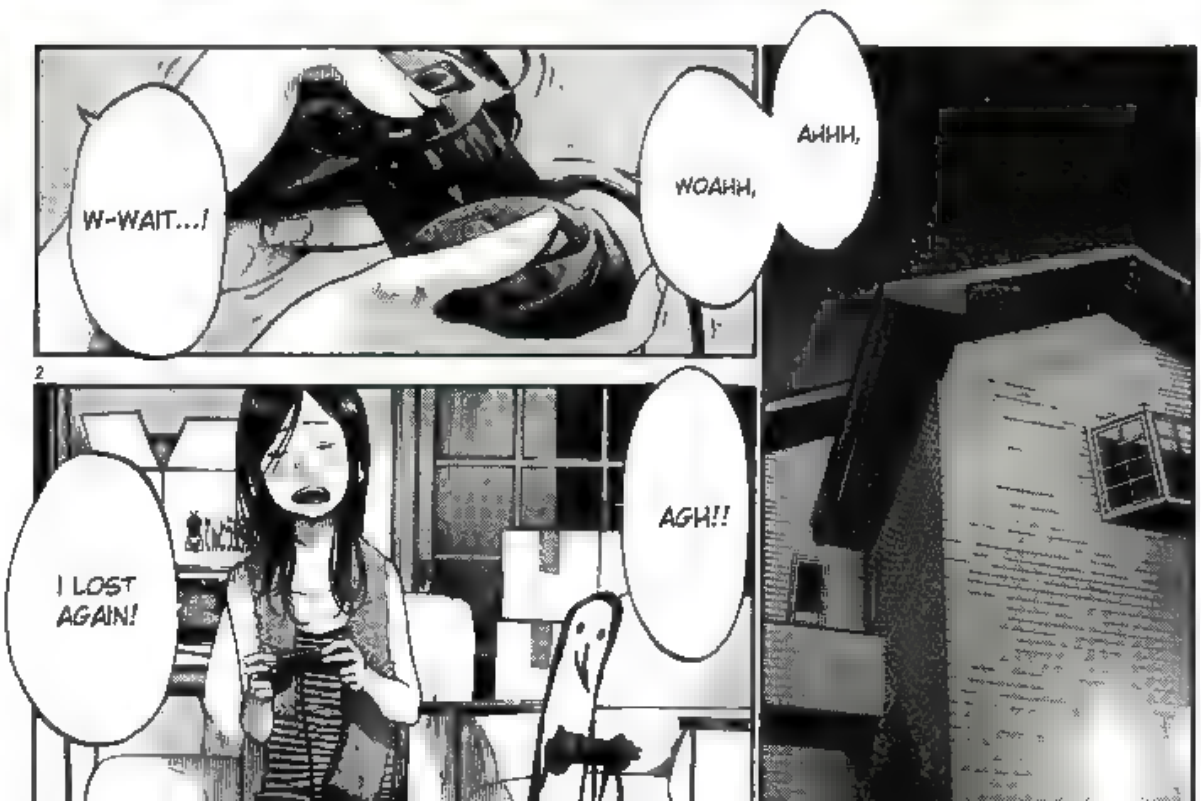
第49話


...SIR,
IT MAY NOT CONCERN ME,
BUT IF THERE'S SOMETHING TROUBLING YOUR MIND, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TALK TO ME.

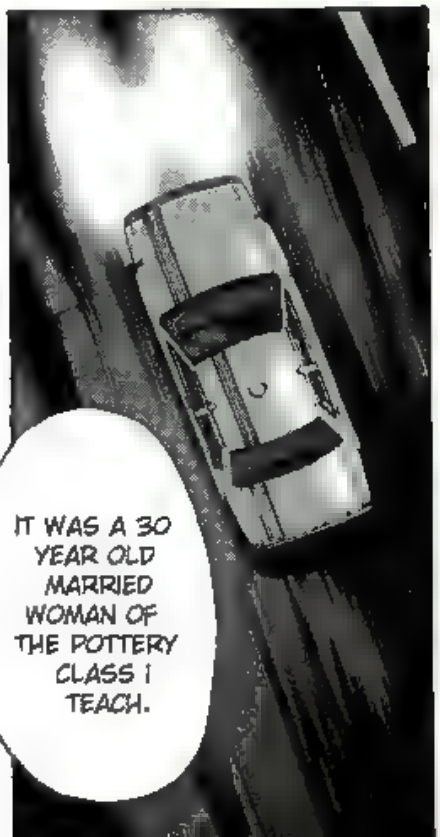
DO I...
LOOK TROUBLED TO YOU?
...
654321
Isogi Toshio
20 ・06・31
WELL...
YOU ARE IN A TAXI IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, ASKING ME TO DRIVE YOU TO THE SEA..


I COMMITTED...


HAVE SINNED .
YES...
ADUL-TERY


W-WAIT...!
WOAHH,
AHHH,
2
I LOST AGAIN!
AGH!!

JEEZ, PUNPUN!
YOU'RE TOO STRONG!
1P WIN
OR IS MY CONTROLLER BROKEN?
MAYBE IT'S CURSED?


IT WAS A 30 YEAR OLD MARRIED WOMAN OF THE POTTERY CLASS I TEACH.

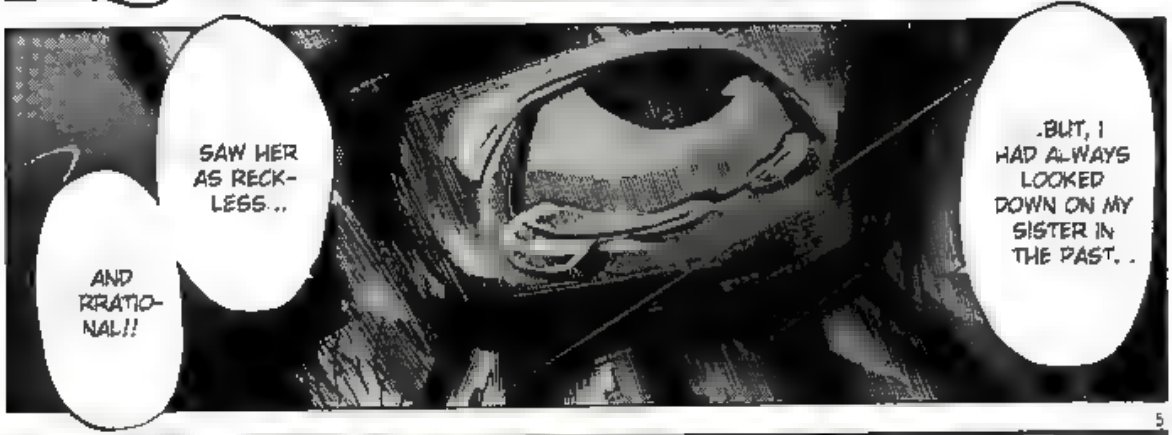
OH, HOW ARRO-GANT!!
I DON'T NEED 10 YEARS TO TRAIN TO BEAT YOU!
ONE MORE TIME!!

NOW, THAT MARRIED COUPLE IS NOW UNDERGOING DIVORCE .
THE HUSBAND SAID HIS PRIDE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY HURT,
AND CHARGED ME WITH 2 MILLION YEN AS RECOM-PENSATION PAYMENT...

I...
HAD OVERESTI-MATED MY SELF...
ALREADY HAD DECIDED ON A GOOD WOMAN TO BE MY SIDE AND I THOUGHT WOULD NEVER CHANGE MY MIND AGAIN...

BUT...
BUT, SHE WAS QUITE THE SEDUCER?
SHE WAS FRIGHTEN-INGLY SEDUCTIVE!!

COULD PAY THE 2 MILLION WITH THE MONEY I HAD BEEN SAVING UP FOR MY MARRIAGE BUT...
BUT MY SISTER SAID THAT SHE'D SELL THE HOUSE AND PAY THE MONEY FOR ME
THAT'S QUITE UNFORTUNATE TO HEAR.
. YOU HAVE A VERY KIND SISTER.


SAW HER AS RECKLESS..
AND IRRATIONAL!!
.BUT, I HAD ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN ON MY SISTER IN THE PAST. .

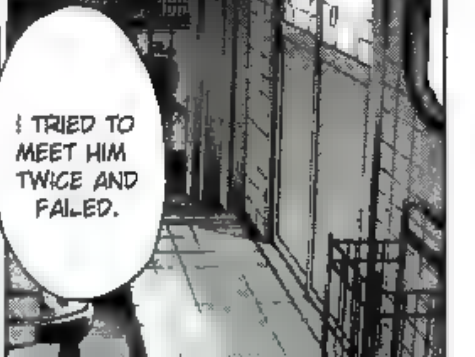
IT MAKES MY HEART HURT MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE...!!
AND NOW TO BE SHOWN SUCH SYMPATHY AND MERCY FROM HER

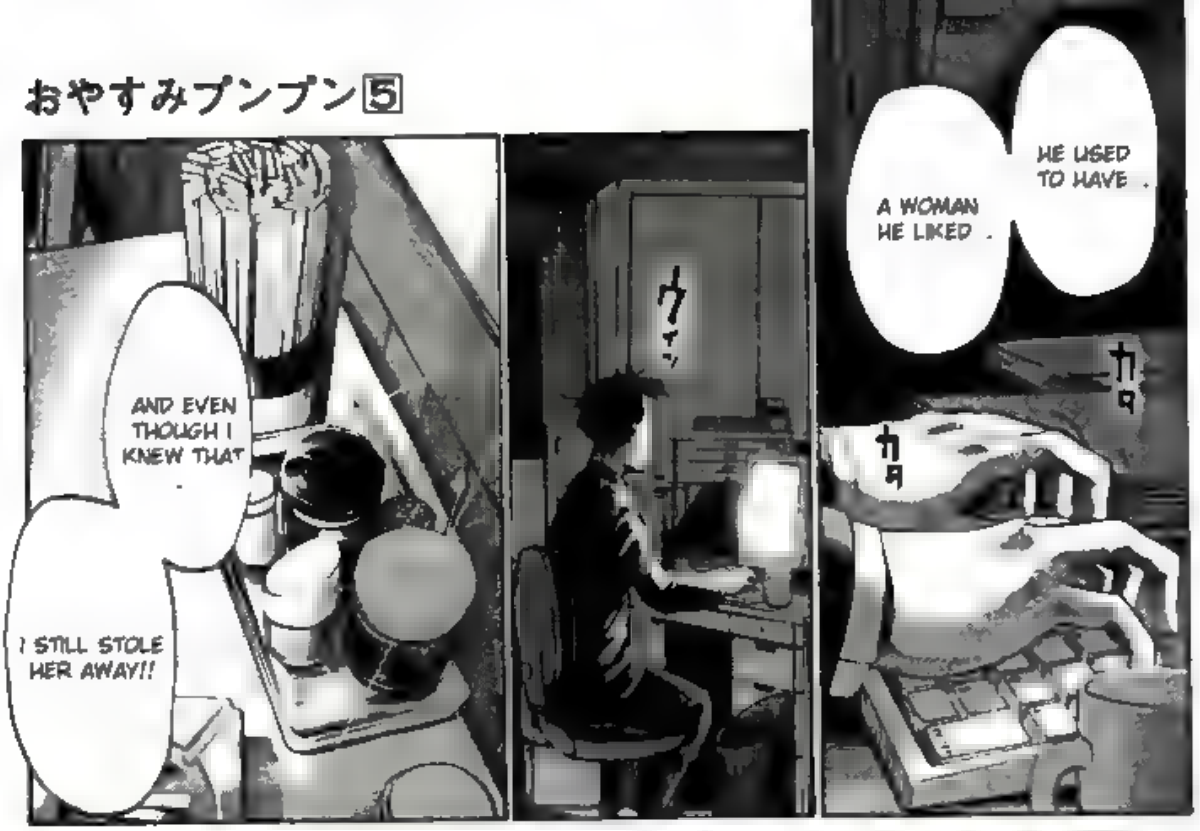
THE ONLY DEAR FRIEND I HAVE,
ALSO HAPPENS TO BE MY LAWER...
I WENT TO GO SEE HIM NOT FOR LEGAL ADVICE...
BUT TO ASK FOR HIS ADVICE AS A FRIEND...

BUT ISN'T HE YOUR FRIEND?
THAT'S TERRIBLE!

...BUT HE REFUSED.

..NO,
IT'S JUST KARMA.


I TRIED TO MEET HIM TWICE AND FAILED.


HE USED TO HAVE A WOMAN HE LIKED.
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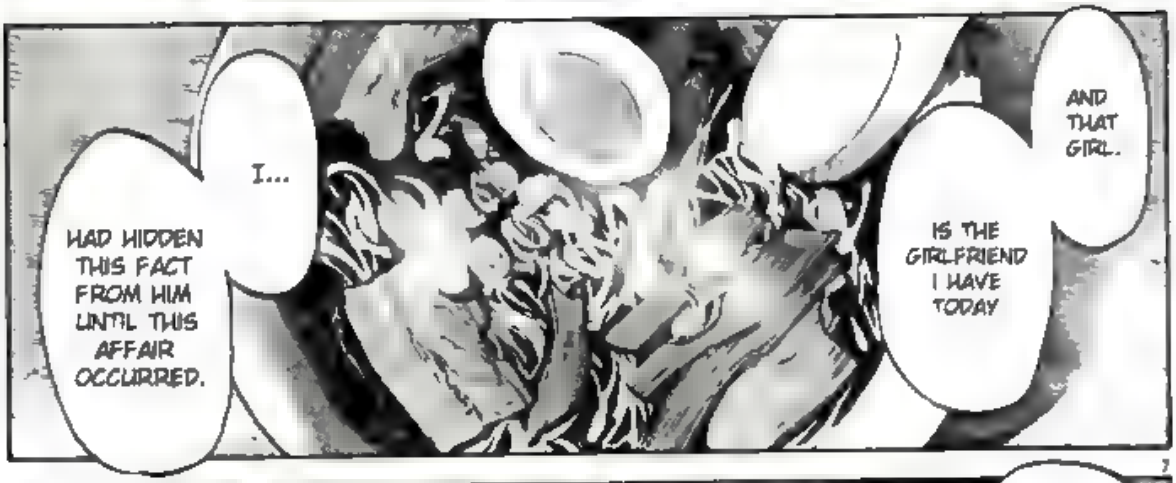
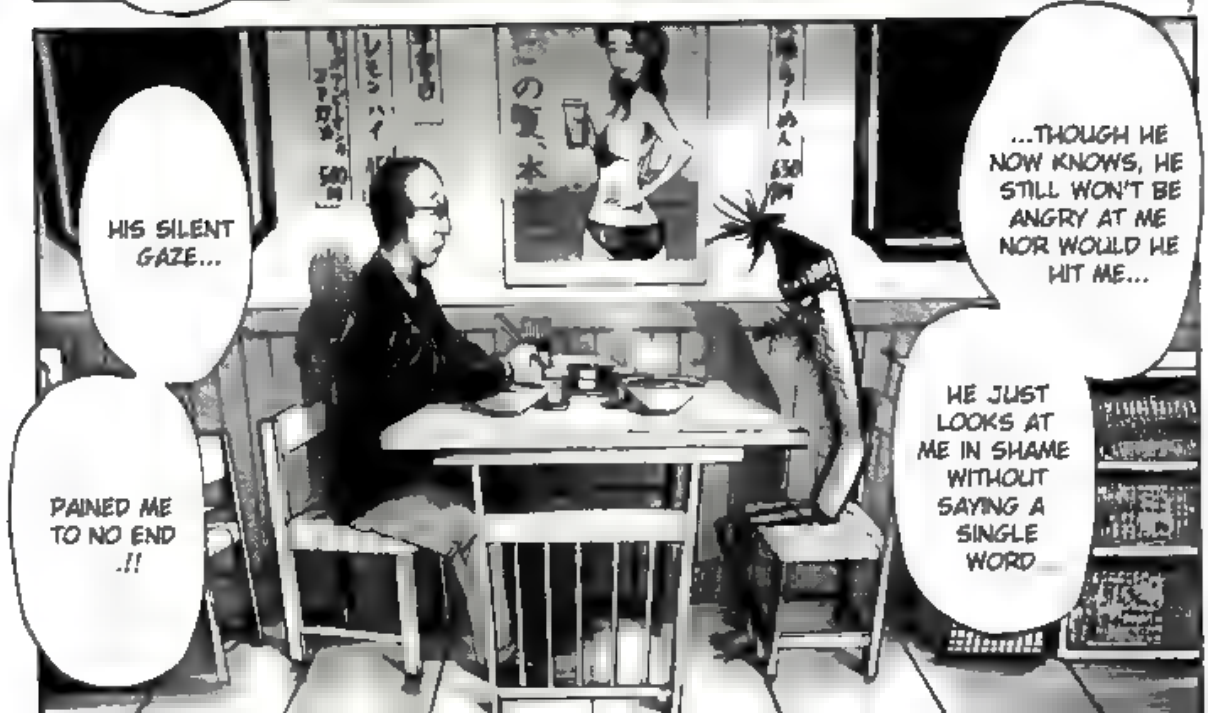
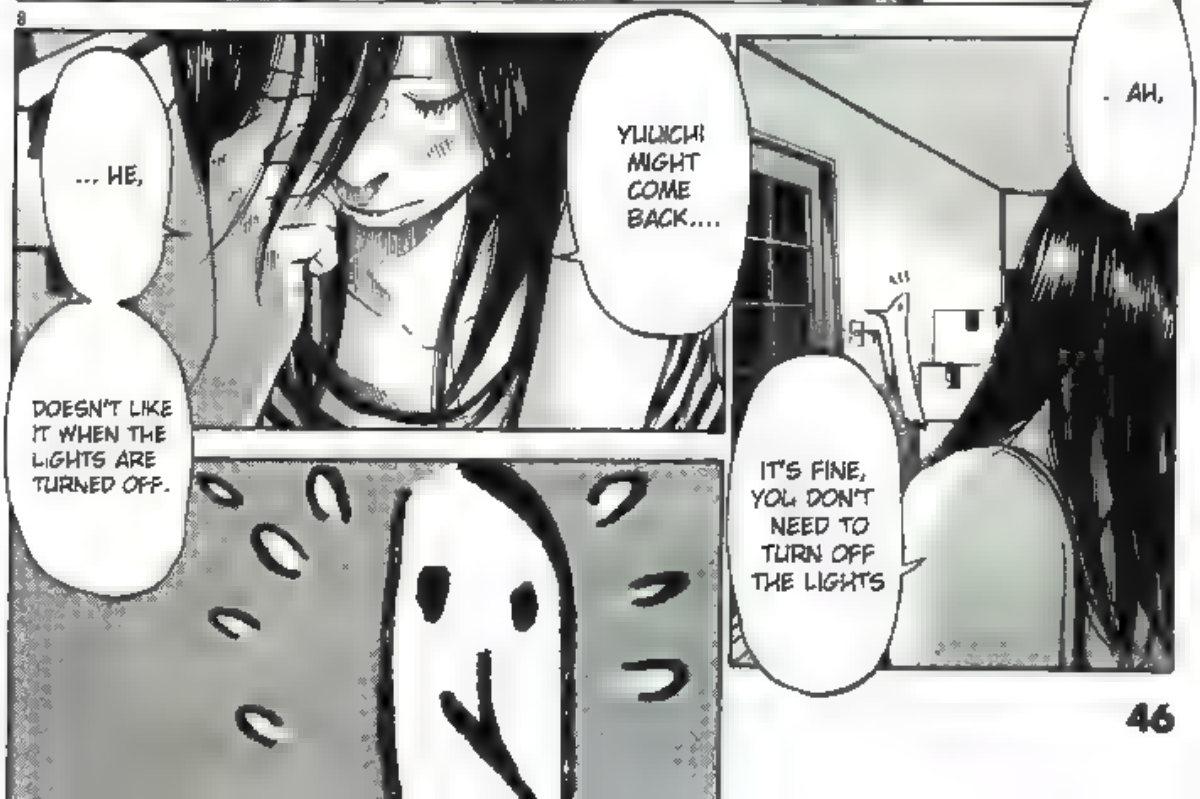
ウィン
AND EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THAT.
I STILL STOLE HER AWAY!!


AND THAT GIRL.
IS THE GIRLFRIEND I HAVE TODAY
I...
HAD HIDDEN THIS FACT FROM HIM UNTIL THIS AFFAIR OCCURRED.


...THOUGH HE NOW KNOWS, HE STILL WON'T BE ANGRY AT ME NOR WOULD HE HIT ME...
HE JUST LOOKS AT ME IN SHAME WITHOUT SAYING A SINGLE WORD...
HIS SILENT GAZE...
PAINED ME TO NO END.!!


AH,
YUUICHI MIGHT COME BACK....
IT'S FINE, YOU DON'T NEED TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS
... HE,
DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF.

SORRY PUNPUN ..
BUT WOULD IT BE FINE IF YOU COULD STAY LIKE THAT FOR A BIT?

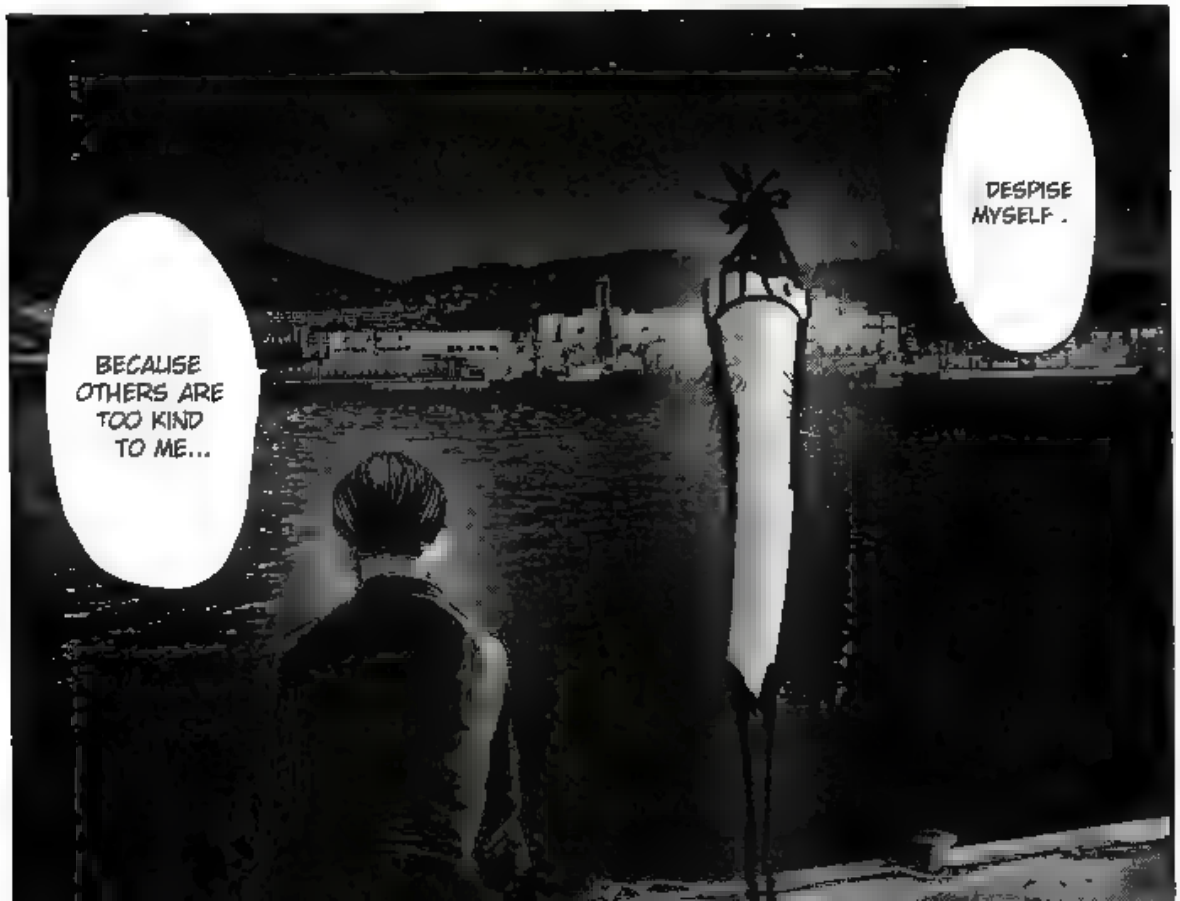
IT'S A WEIRD STORY BUT.
MADE A PROMISE TO THE GIRLFRIEND I HAVE NOW, LONG AGO.

"IF I EVER HAPPEN TO HURT YOU DEEPLY,
I WANT YOU TO KILL ME.. "

BUT .
SHE DIDN'T KILL ME. .
SHE. .
FORGAVE SUCH A DESPICABLE MAN LIKE ME .

THAT...
HURT ME ABOVE ALL ELSE...

LIVED WITH HER, MY SISTER AND MY NEPHEW IN A SINGLE HOUSE.
. AND I FINALLY UNDER-STAND NOW.
THE REASON WHY I LIKED THAT HOUSE SO MUCH !!

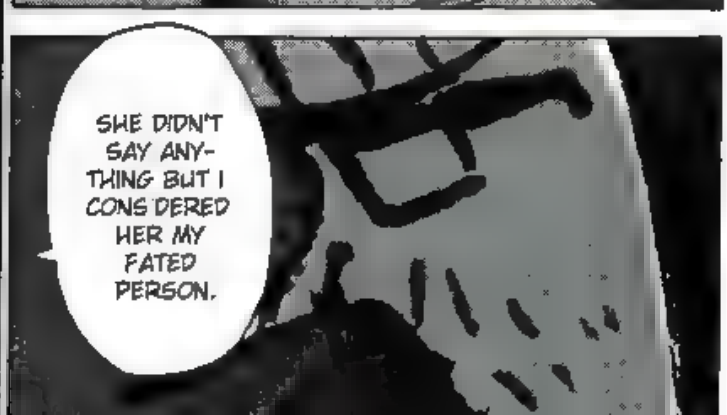

DESPISE MYSELF .
BECAUSE OTHERS ARE TOO KIND TO ME...

SIR...
I USED TO BE A YAKUZA...
AND I HAD DONE THINGS A 100 TIMES WORSE THAN YOU HAVE

IF I HADN'T MARRIED KAMI,
I'D PROBABLY BE A DEAD CORPSE SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW

...OF COURSE, I CAUSED MANY PROBLEMS FOR HER.

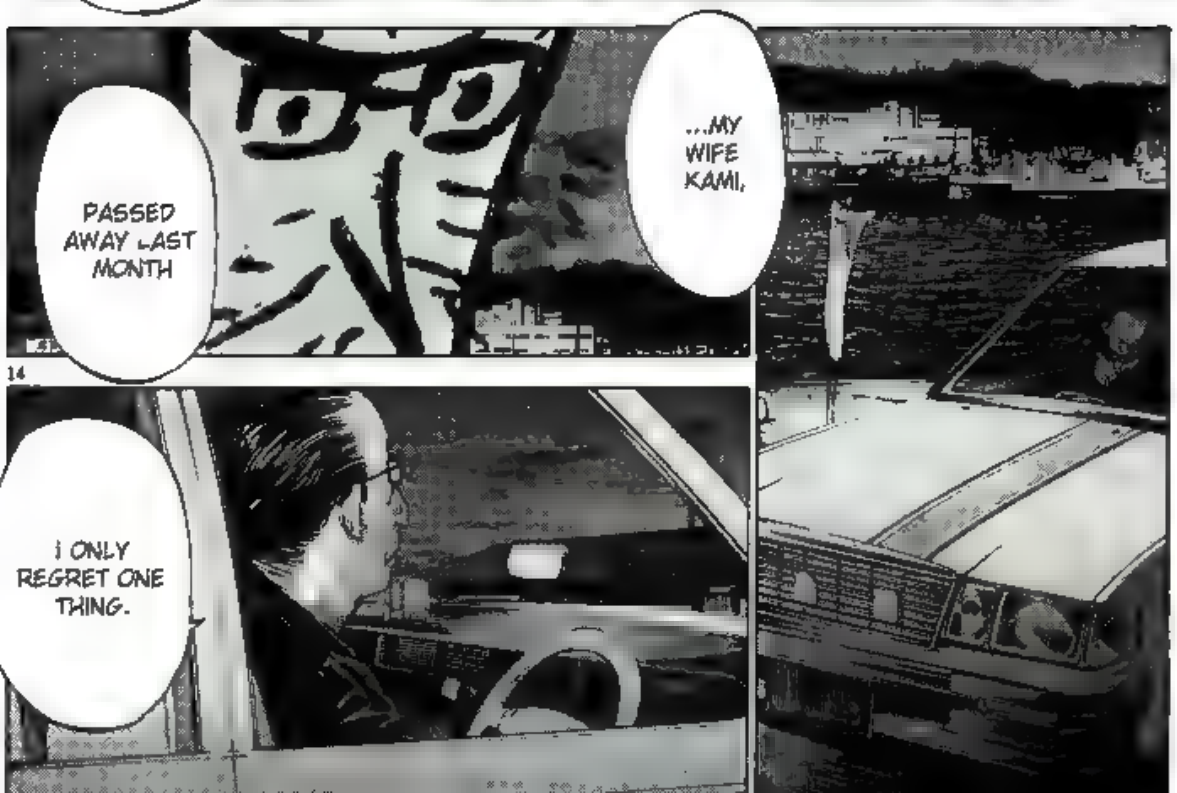
AS LONG AS THE KINDNESS RECEIVED FROM OTHERS...
IS RETURNED BACK, IT'S FINE EVEN IF IT TAKES TIME.


SHE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING BUT I CONSIDERED HER MY FATED PERSON.

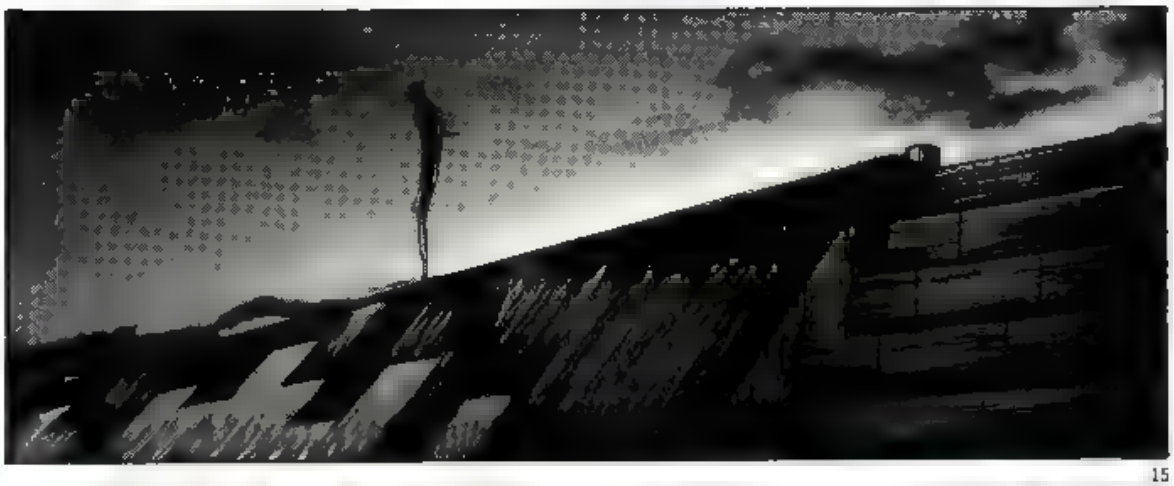
HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU MY CARD
TAXI DRIVER
ISOGI TOSHIO
TAXIS DON'T RUN IN PLACES LIKE HERE.
THERE ARE ALWAYS CHANCES IN LIFE
BUT .
JUST HOW SHOULD I...
UH..
BUT,
I ..
13
EVEN IF YOU CAME HERE TO SEE THE SEA, THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR YOU TO DO EXCEPT CATCH A COLD.
I'LL COME PICK YOU UP WHENEVER.
IT'S FINE, I HAVE ENOUGH SPARE TIME

AND BESIDES, YOU ARE A PERSON THAT WILL RETURN.
AM I NOT RIGHT?
YOU DO HAVE PEOPLE WAITING FOR YOU TO COME BACK.

I'M JUST AN OLD FOOL SO I COULD BE WRONG BUT..
I THINK THAT WHAT PEOPLE WHO'VE COMMITTED CRIMES NEEDS ISN'T PUNISHMENT,
BUT RATHER THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAIN OF BEING FORGIVEN


...MY WIFE KAMI,
PASSED AWAY LAST MONTH
I ONLY REGRET ONE THING.

BEFORE SHE DIED,
COULDN'T SAY THANK YOU TO HER.
. . .YOU STILL MUST HAVE,
THINGS FOR YOU TO DO, AM I WRONG?



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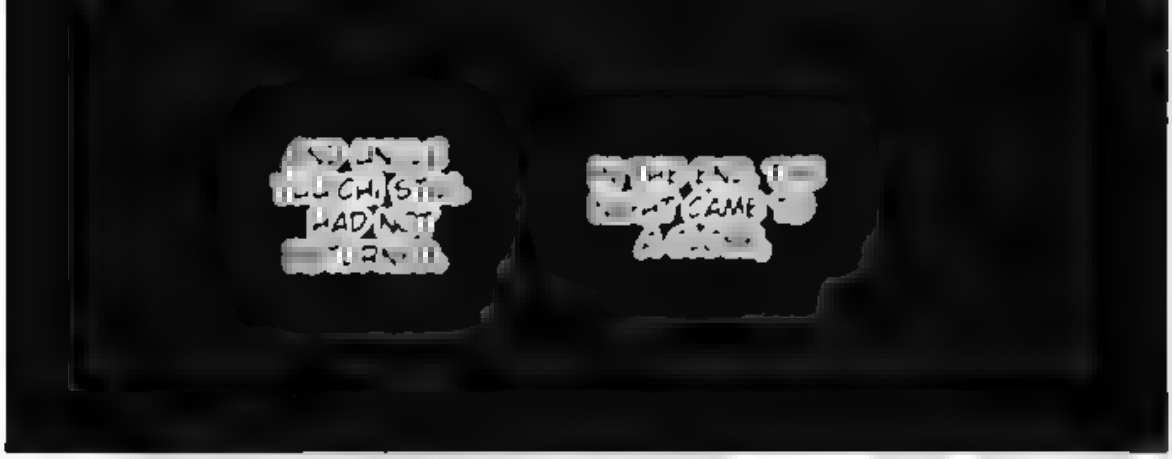
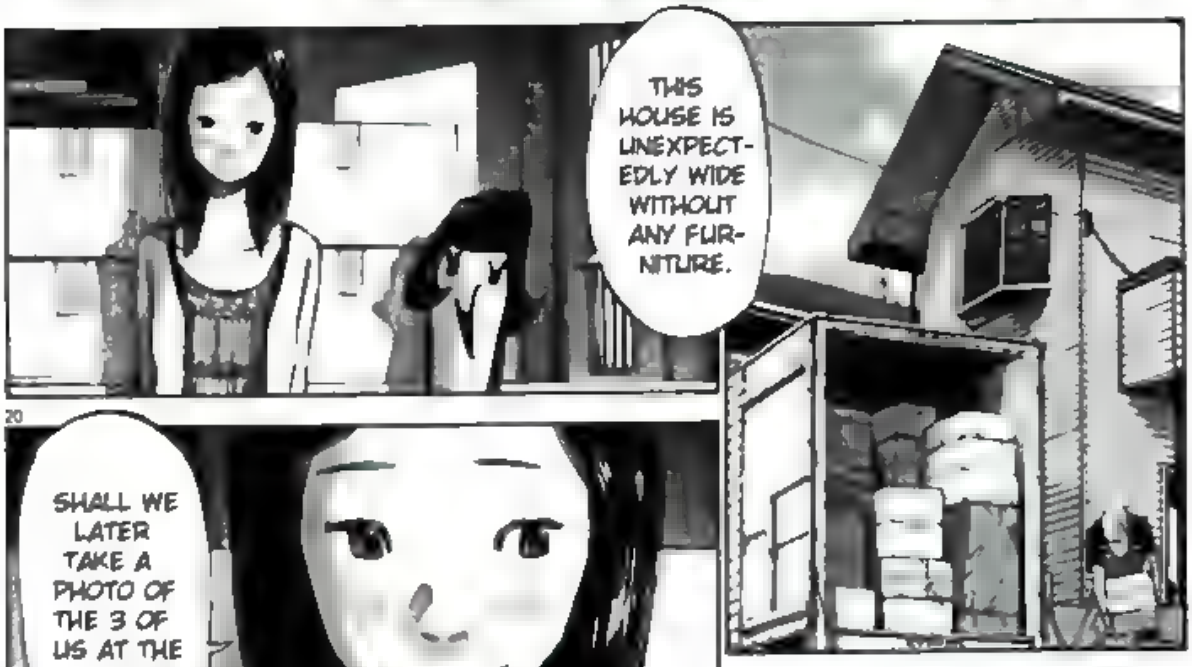
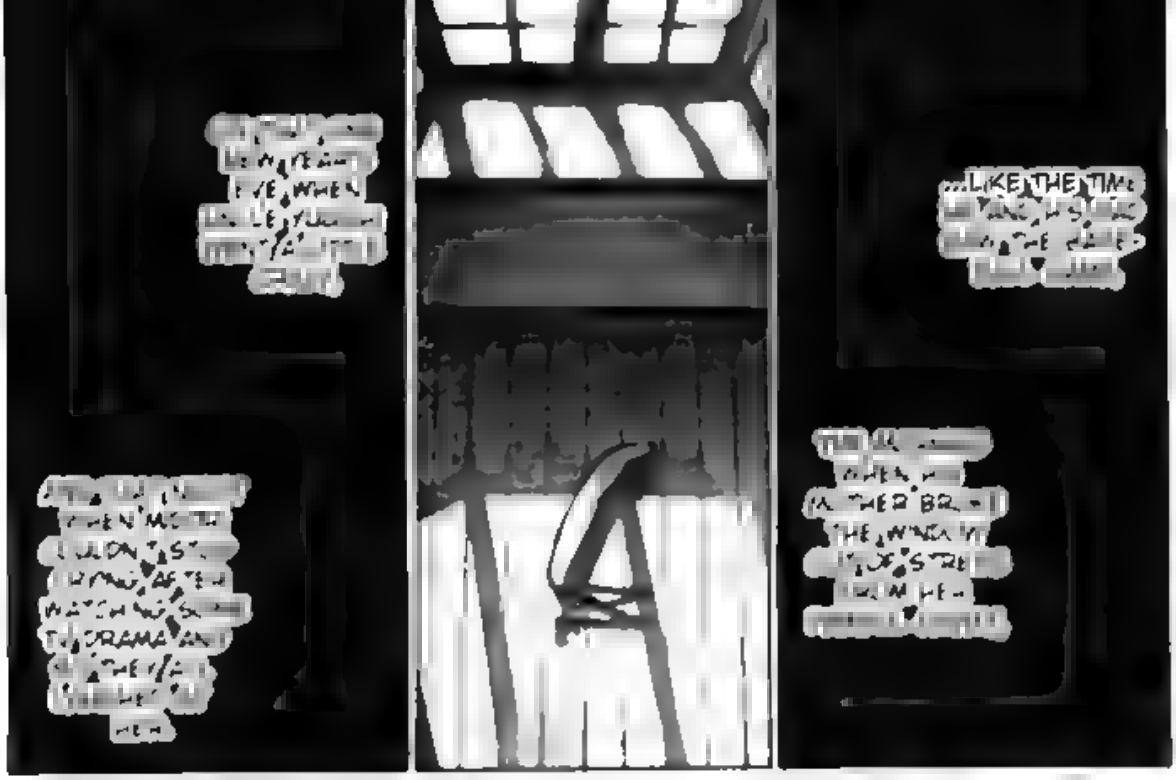


WANTED IT IN JUST ONE GO.

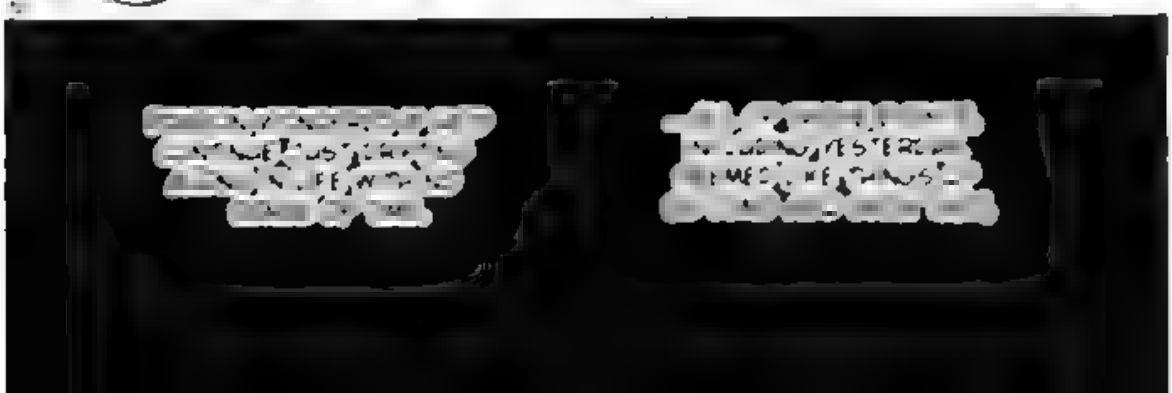
SO I HIRED THESE MOVERS TO MOVE THE STUFF.
I SEE.

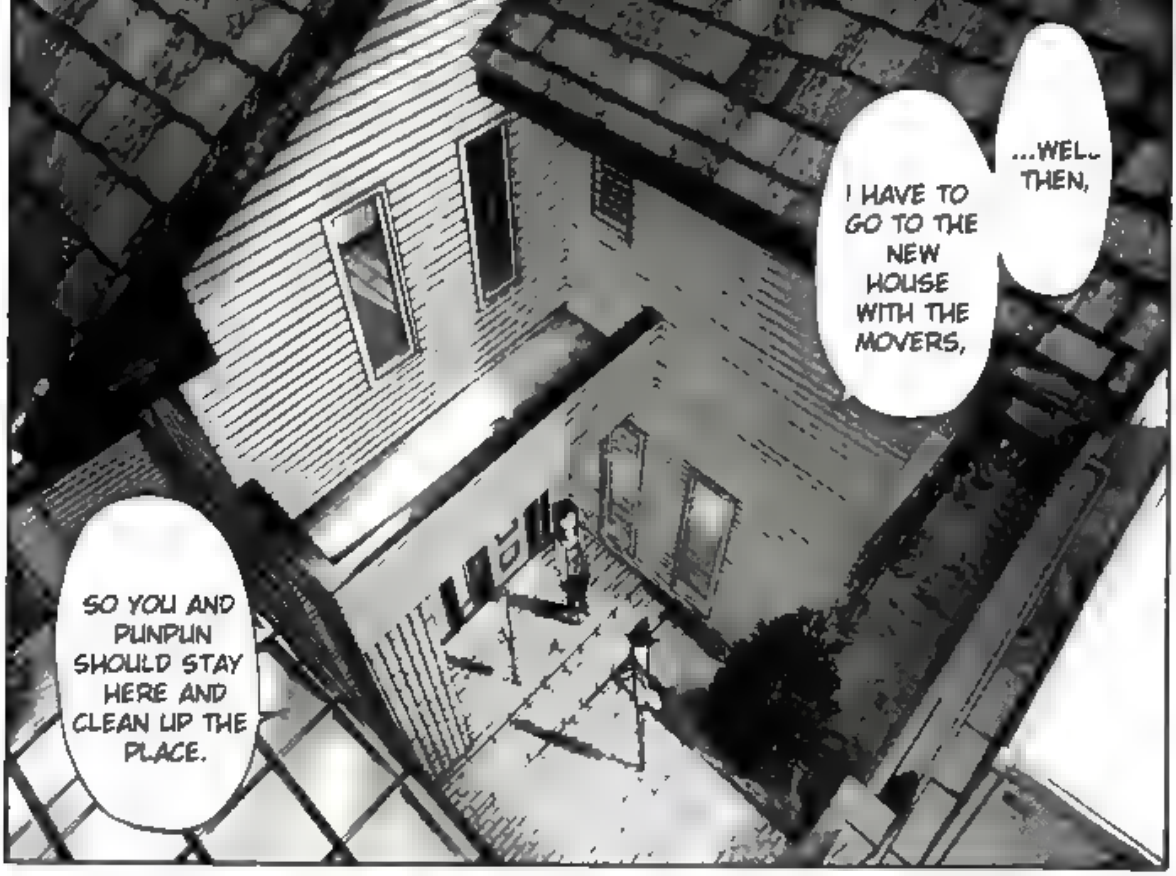

THIS HOUSE IS UNEXPECT-EDLY WIDE WITHOUT ANY FUR-NITURE.
20
SHALL WE LATER TAKE A PHOTO OF THE 3 OF US AT THE DOOR?

WE'VE FINISHED LOADING UP ALL YOUR ITEMS. WE JUST NEED YOUR SIGNATURE.
AW AW



HMPH.
THIS MOVING BUSINESS SURE IS FAST!!




...WELL THEN,
I HAVE TO GO TO THE NEW HOUSE WITH THE MOVERS,
SO YOU AND PUNPUN SHOULD STAY HERE AND CLEAN UP THE PLACE.

SORRY.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE BETTER TAKE IT AFTER ALL.
YOU MEAN TO TAKE THE PICTURE?

...UMM,
WHAT?

IS IT ALRIGHT,
FOR ME TO STILL CALL YOU EVERY NOW AND THEN?

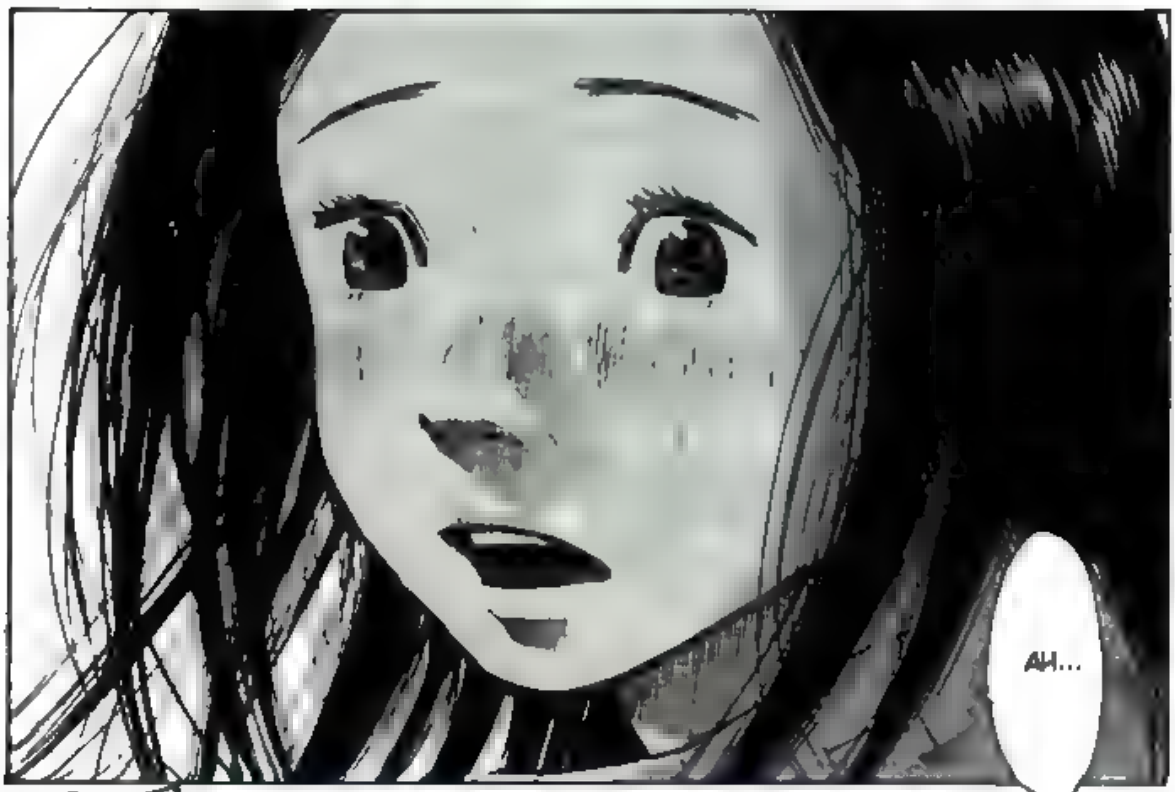
LET'S COVER IT BACK

YOU'RE GOING TO THE EYE-GLASS STORE AFTER, RIGHT? MAYBE WE COULD ALSO DROP BY THE GENERAL STORE AFTER.
AND PERHAPS THE BOOKSTORE TOO.
HEY, THERE'S A UNIVERSITY NEARBY MY CAFE, RIGHT?
SO I WAS THINKING OF ALSO TURNING THE PLACE INTO A DINER.
BUT MY HANDS ARE A BIT FULL RIGHT NOW SO I'M KIND OF WORRIED.

. THAT'S RIGHT!
I WAS THINKING MAYBE JUST FOR SPRING BREAK,
YOU COULD HELP ME OUT AT THE..

HUH?
THAT MIGHT BE A BIT PUSHING IT THOUGH
OF COURSE, I GUESS HUMANS CAN DO ANYTHING IF THEY REALLY BELIEVED THEY COULD

HUH...?
SHOP


AH...

YUUICHI!!
YU...

24
SEIYO

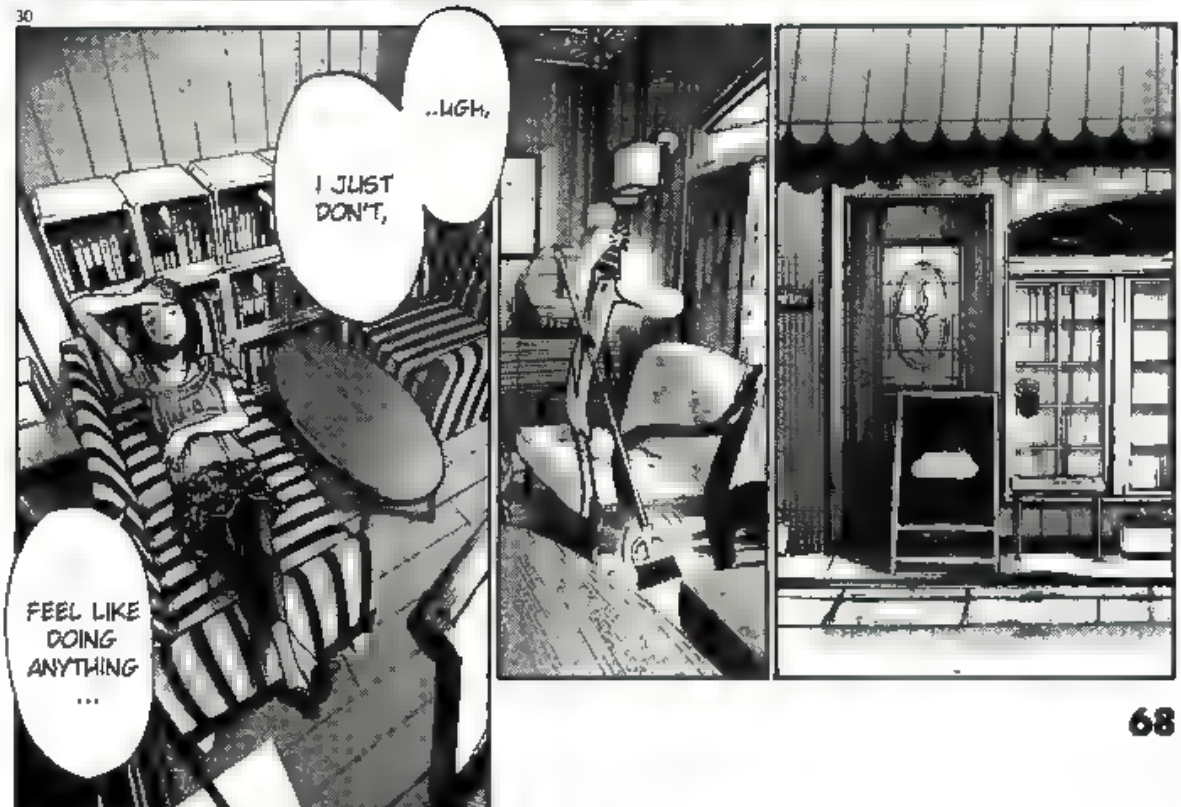
AH .
EXCUSE ME..
MISTOOK YOU FOR ANOTHER PERSON. .
CAN TEACH YOU THE FUTURE!!
TOSHIKI

THE TIME!!
AN TEACH YUU THE FUTURE
DRAWS NEAR!!

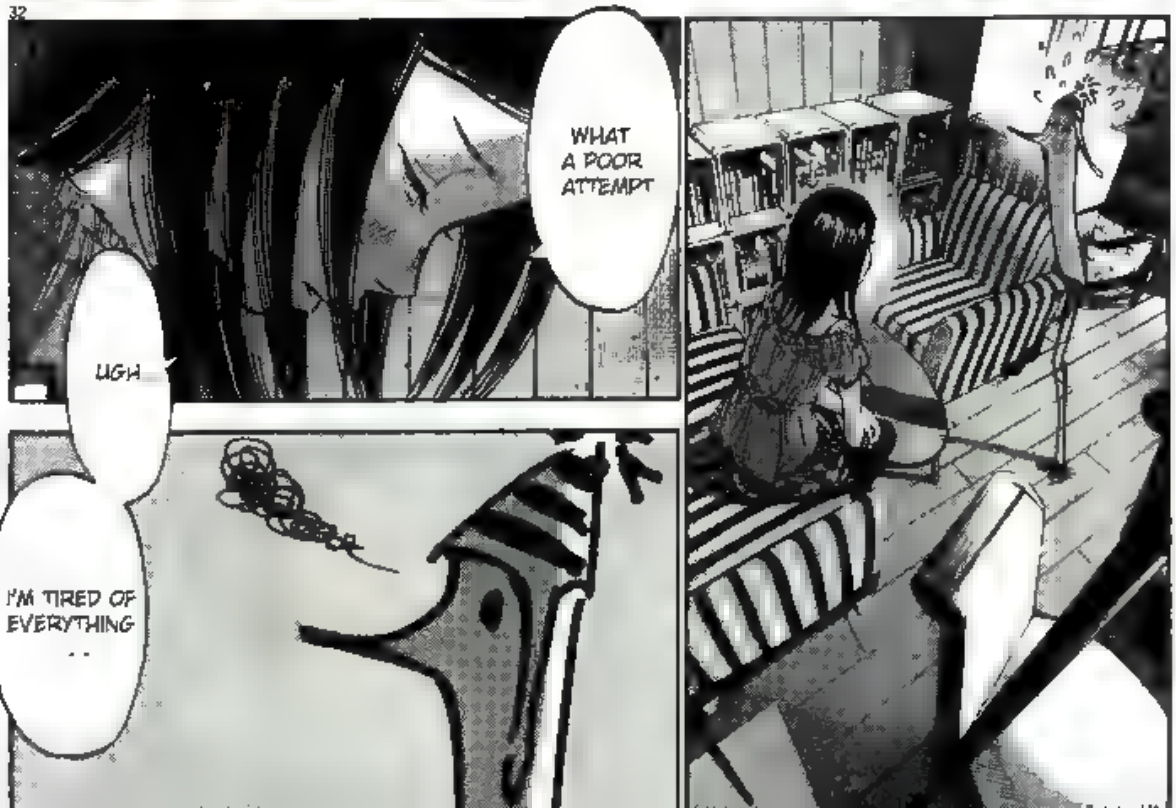
JUST A LITTLE TIRED FROM WALKING.
NO, I'M FINE.
MM..

CURRENTLY
CLEANING SHOP

30

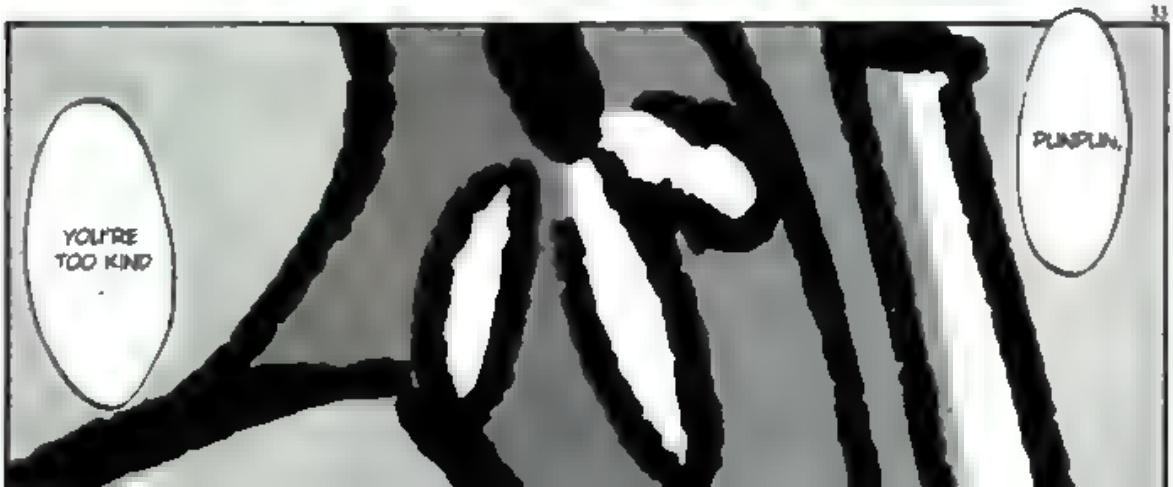

..UGH,
I JUST DON'T,
FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING ...

. THAT'S RIGHT DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME WHEN YOU WERE EATING CAKE HERE.
AND THOSE 2 PEOPLE CAME IN?
THEY WERE FROM ANOTHER MAGAZINE.
AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE FEATURING THIS CAFE IN IT.
.BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T FEEL VERY HAPPY AT ALL.
JUST ONLY A WHILE AGO, I WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER-JOYED AND JUMPED AROUND
. PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME SO SADLY LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT READING THE MOODS OF OTHERS AND CHEERING THEM UP, YOU KNOW
YOU SHOULD JUST SMILE
...I SAID SMILE!!


WHAT A POOR ATTEMPT
UGH
I'M TIRED OF EVERYTHING . .

...SORRY.
THAT GUY...
-SNIFF-
UUU.
-SNIFF-
HE'S THE WORST...

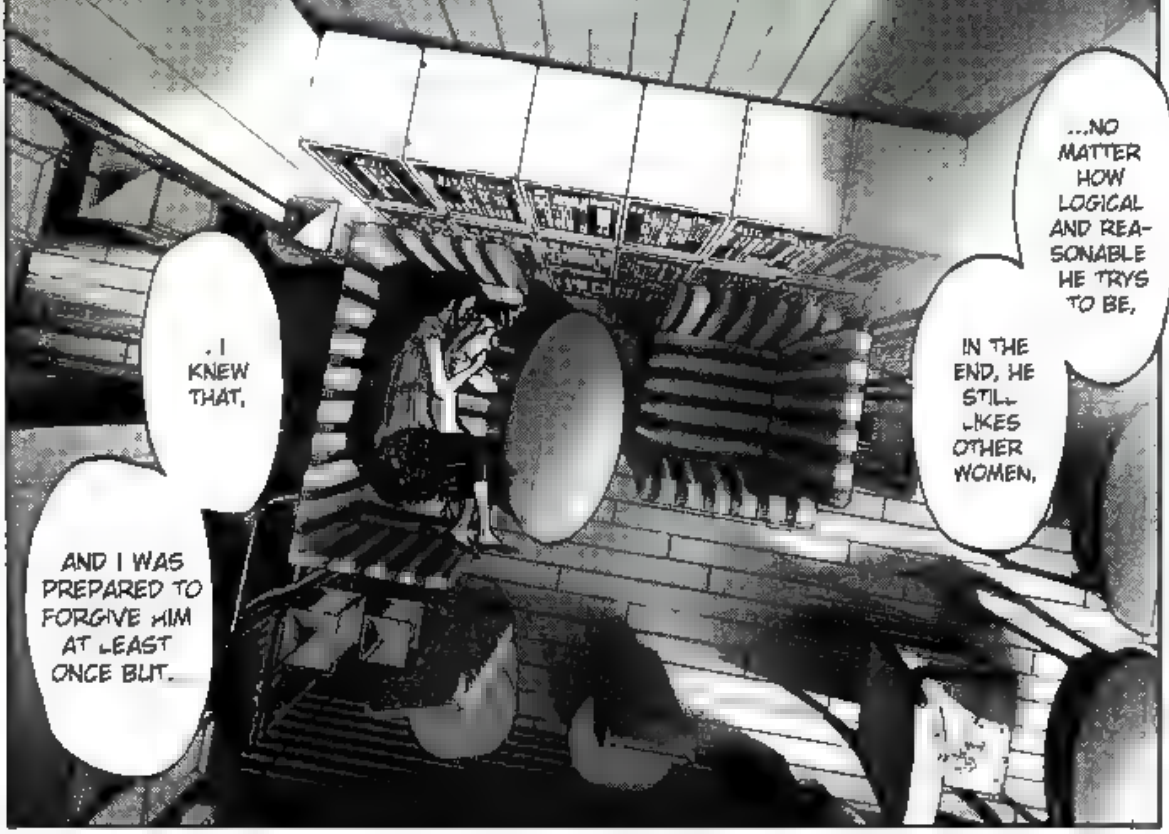
なぜなぜなぜなぜなぜ


PUNPUN.
YOU'RE TOO KIND.

COULD YOU PLEASE
COME OVER HERE

SCANLATED BY HOX

...
YUUICHI,
HAD AN AFFAIR WITH SOME OTHER WOMAN.
AND HE WAS FINED 2 MILLION WHAT AN IDIOT.
CURRENTLY CLEANING SHOP
2

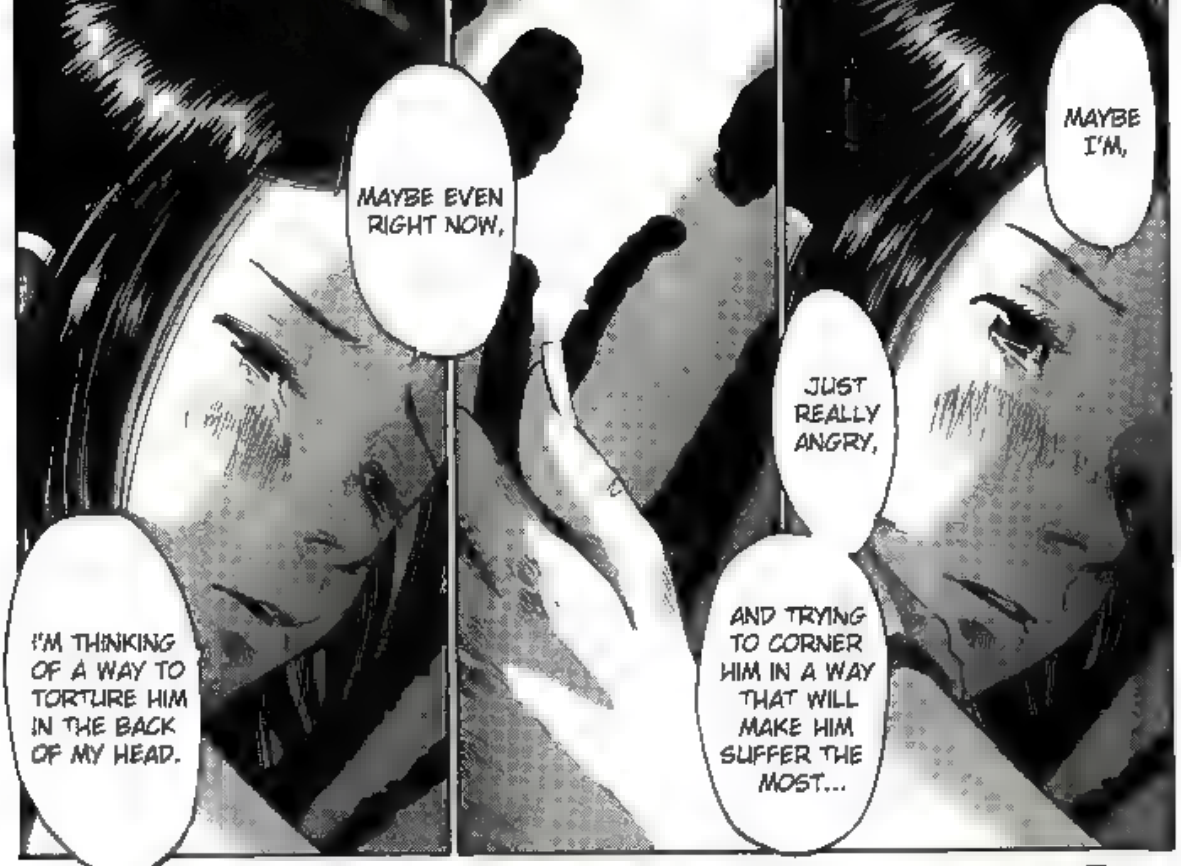

...NO MATTER HOW LOGICAL AND REASONABLE HE TRYS TO BE,
IN THE END, HE STILL LIKES OTHER WOMEN.
. I KNEW THAT,
AND I WAS PREPARED TO FORGIVE HIM AT LEAST ONCE BUT.

...HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.
RAN AWAY AGAIN.
. HE,

3

OR IS IT...?

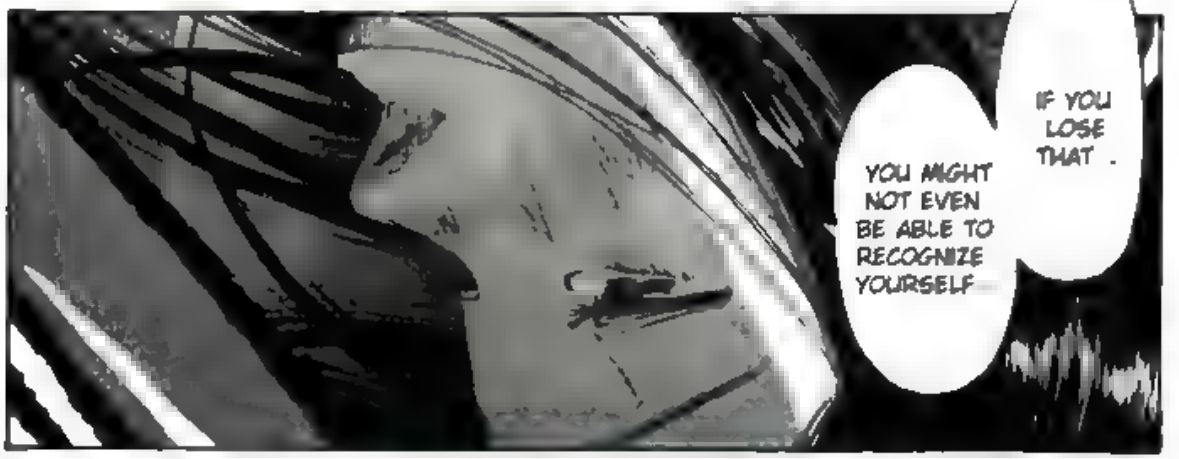
THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME SADDEST...
I FAILED TO CHANGE HIM...


MAYBE EVEN RIGHT NOW,
I'M THINKING OF A WAY TO TORTURE HIM IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD.
MAYBE I'M,
JUST REALLY ANGRY,
AND TRYING TO CORNER HIM IN A WAY THAT WILL MAKE HIM SUFFER THE MOST...

HAHA.
EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF...
SORRY,
JUST WHAT THE HELL AM I SAYING..

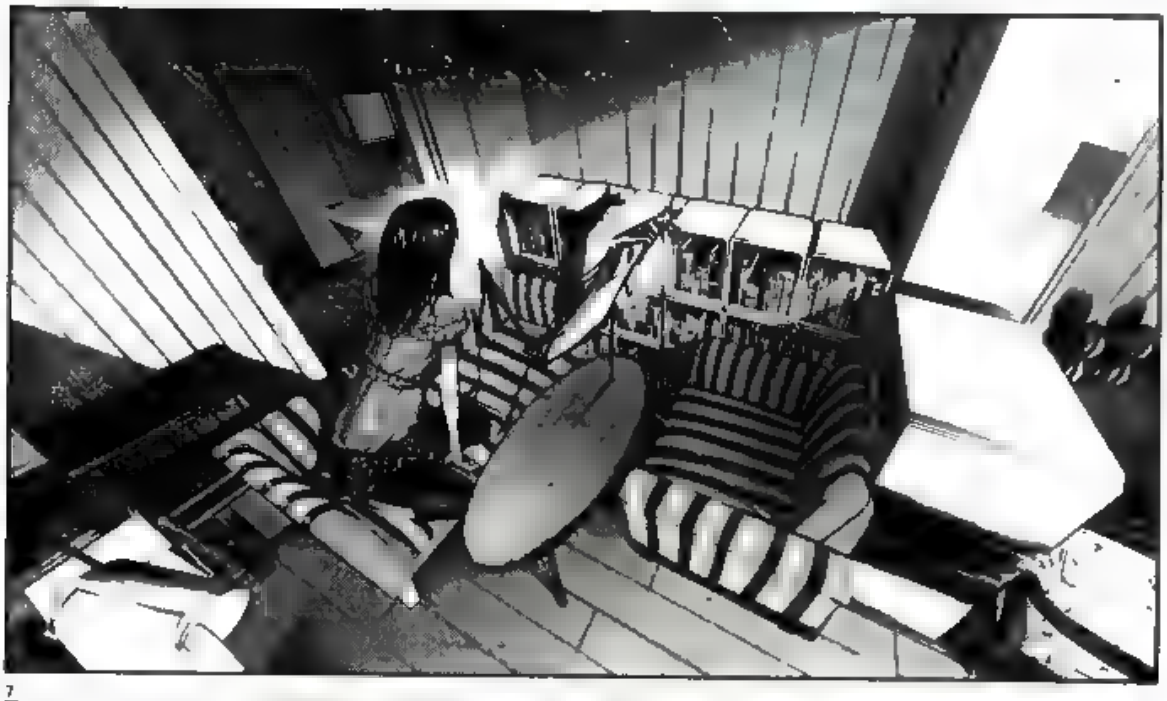
I FOOLISHLY THOUGHT,
THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND OTHERS...
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND MY OWN SELF...

HEY, PUNPUN ..
WHAT'S THE MOST PRE-CIOUS THING TO YOU?
SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN BELIEVE IN NO MATTER WHAT.


IF YOU LOSE THAT .
YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE YOURSELF

I KNOW NOW...
THAT ACTUALIZING THIS DREAM OF MINE WAS JUST A CHECKPOINT
I REALLY LOVED,
LIVING TOGETHER WITH ALL 4 OF US.

SHE MAY BE A BIT CRUDE,
BUT SHE'S REALLY JUST A LONELY PERSON...
...
PUNPUN,
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOTHER...
...I'M ACTUALLY A LITTLE WORRIED.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF ADULT YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE...
IS IT OK...
...
SORRY,
FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...?



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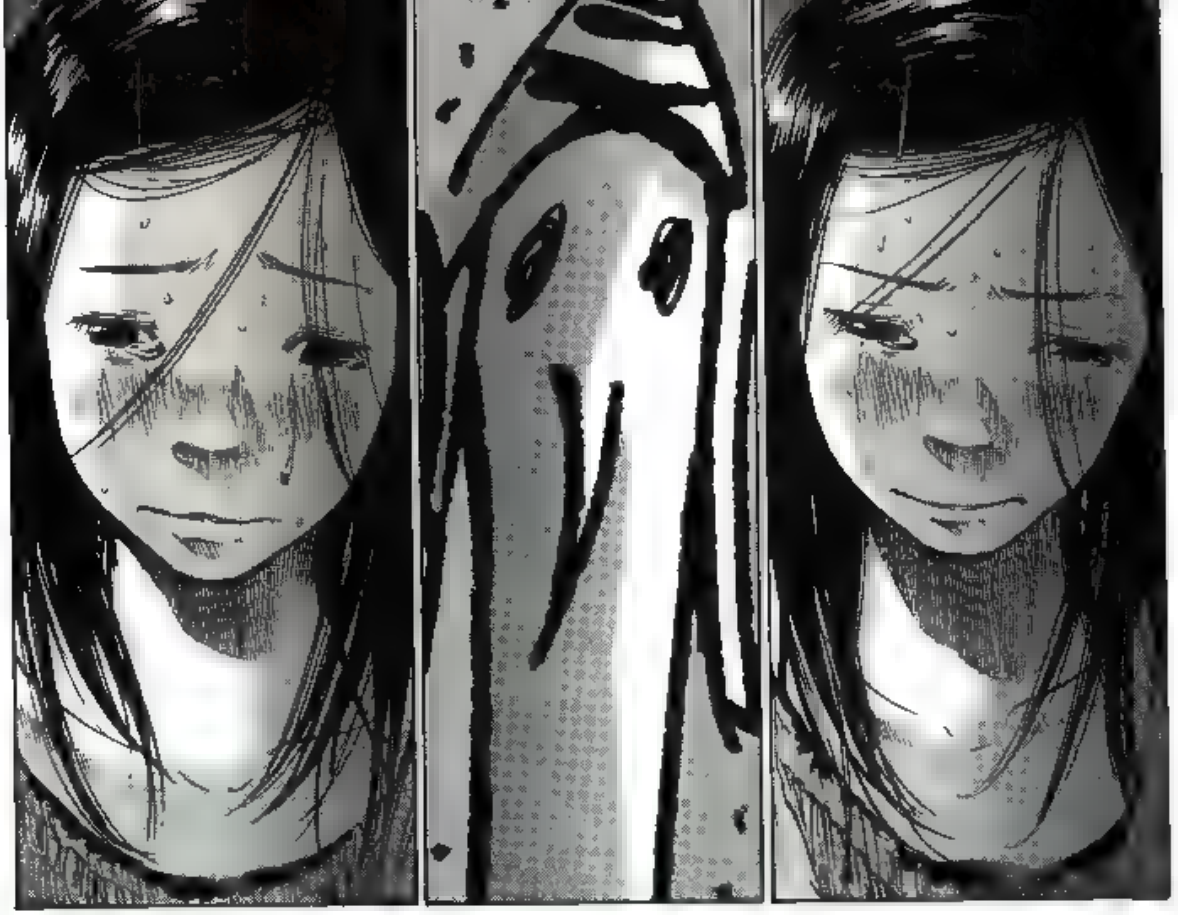
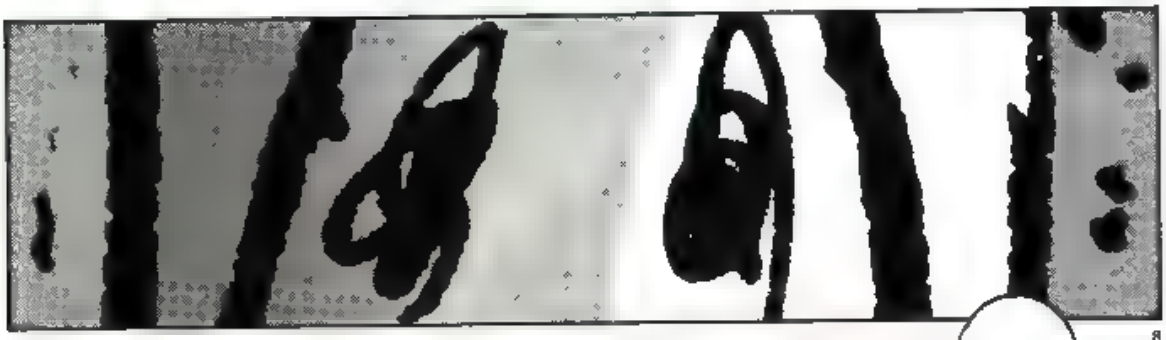
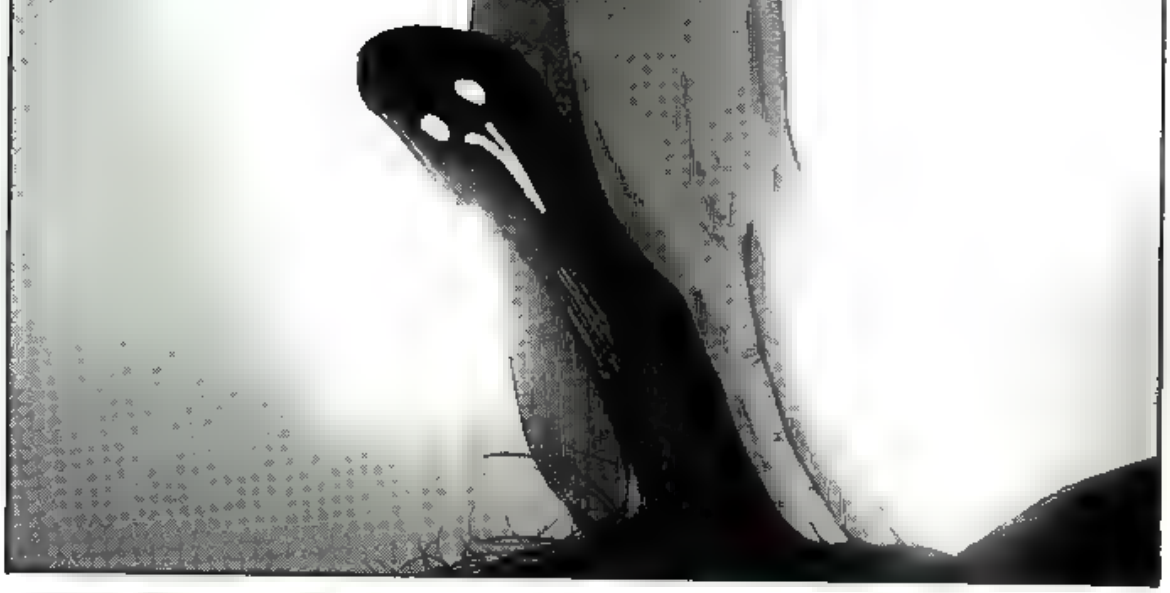
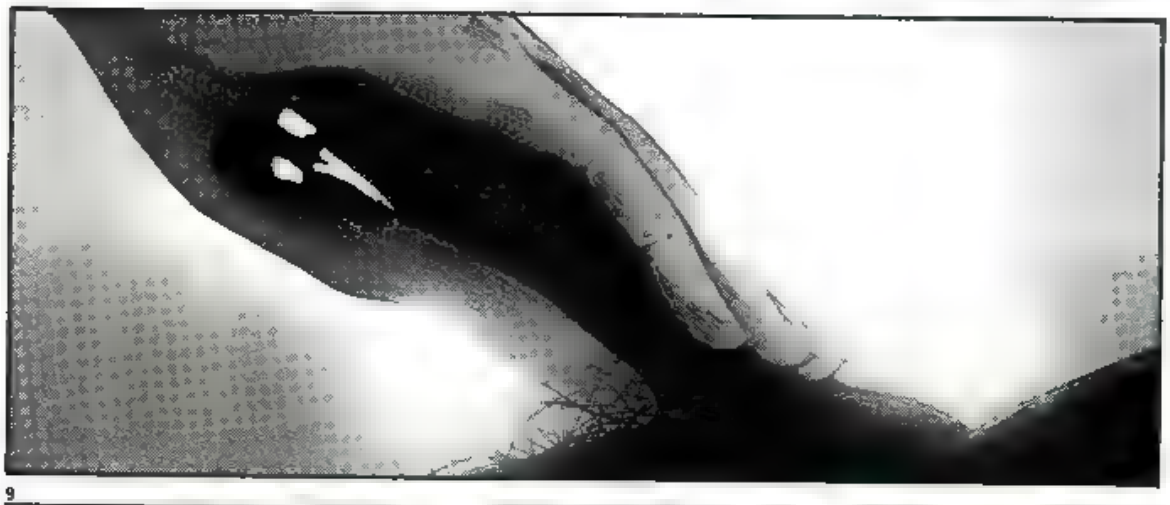




JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE ...
PLEASE. .





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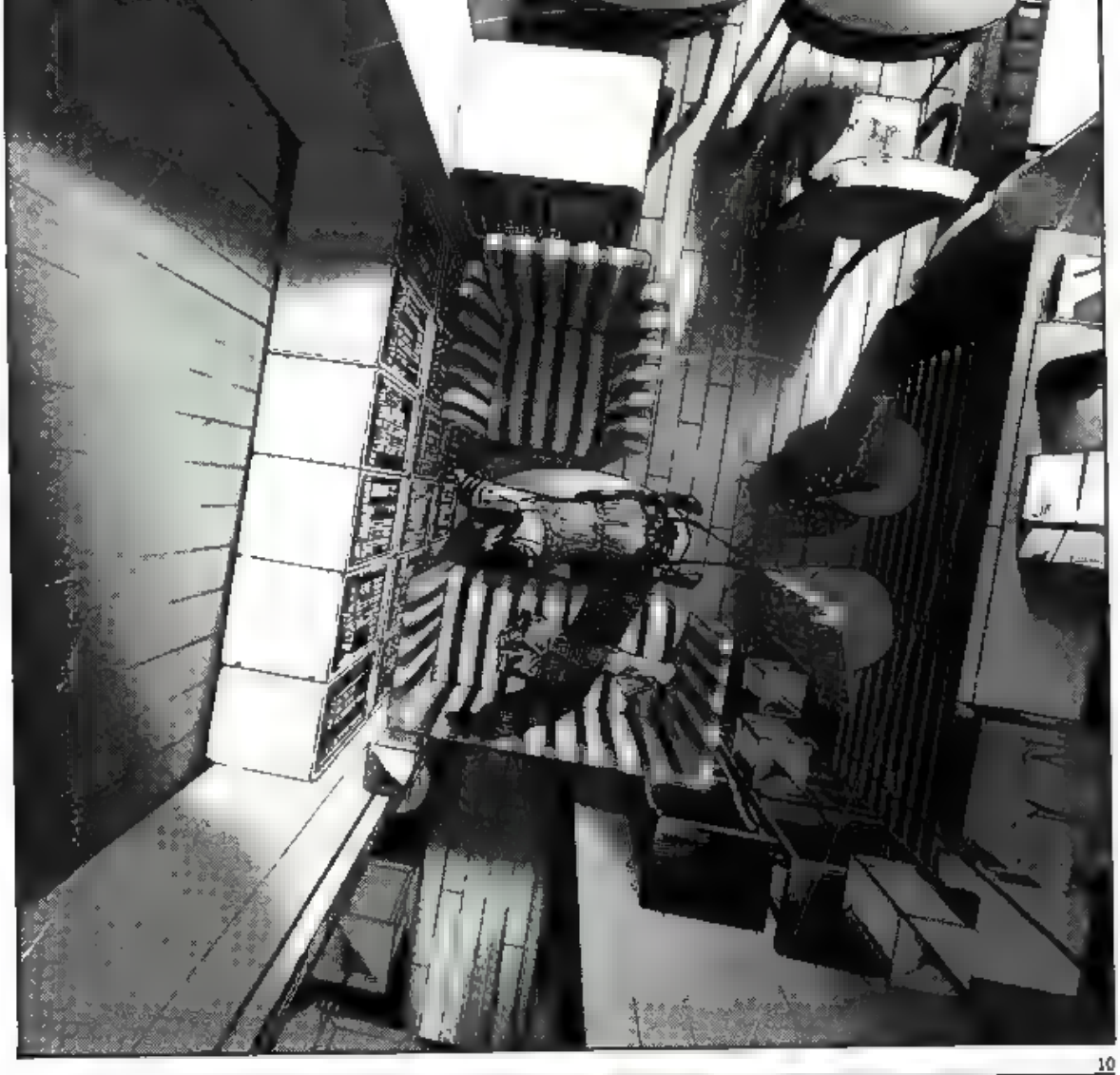

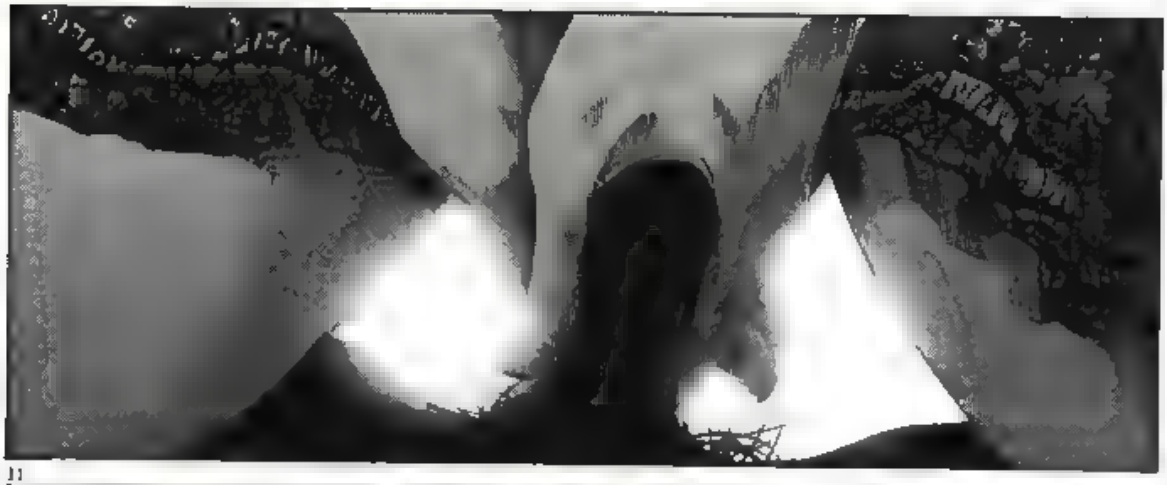

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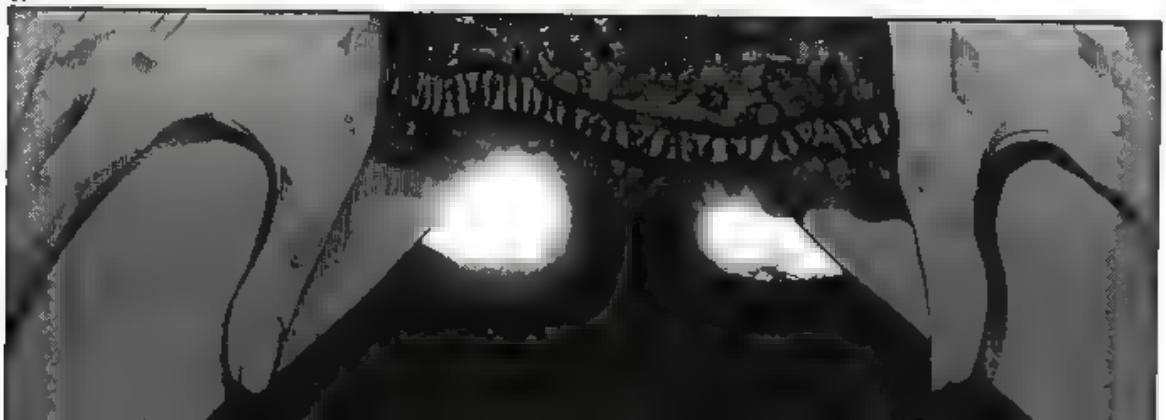
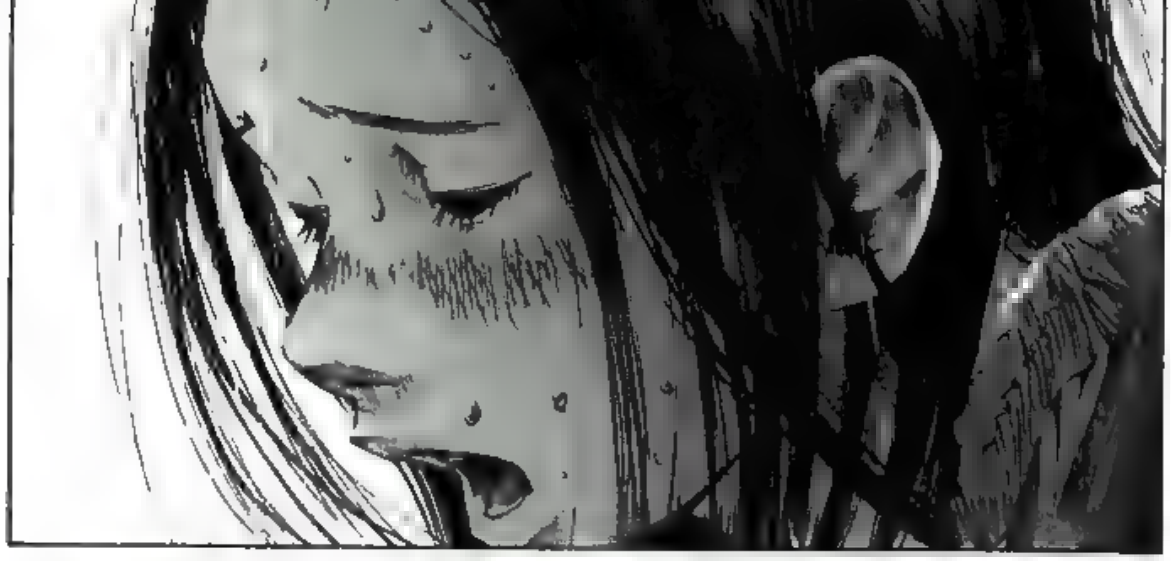


AHH.



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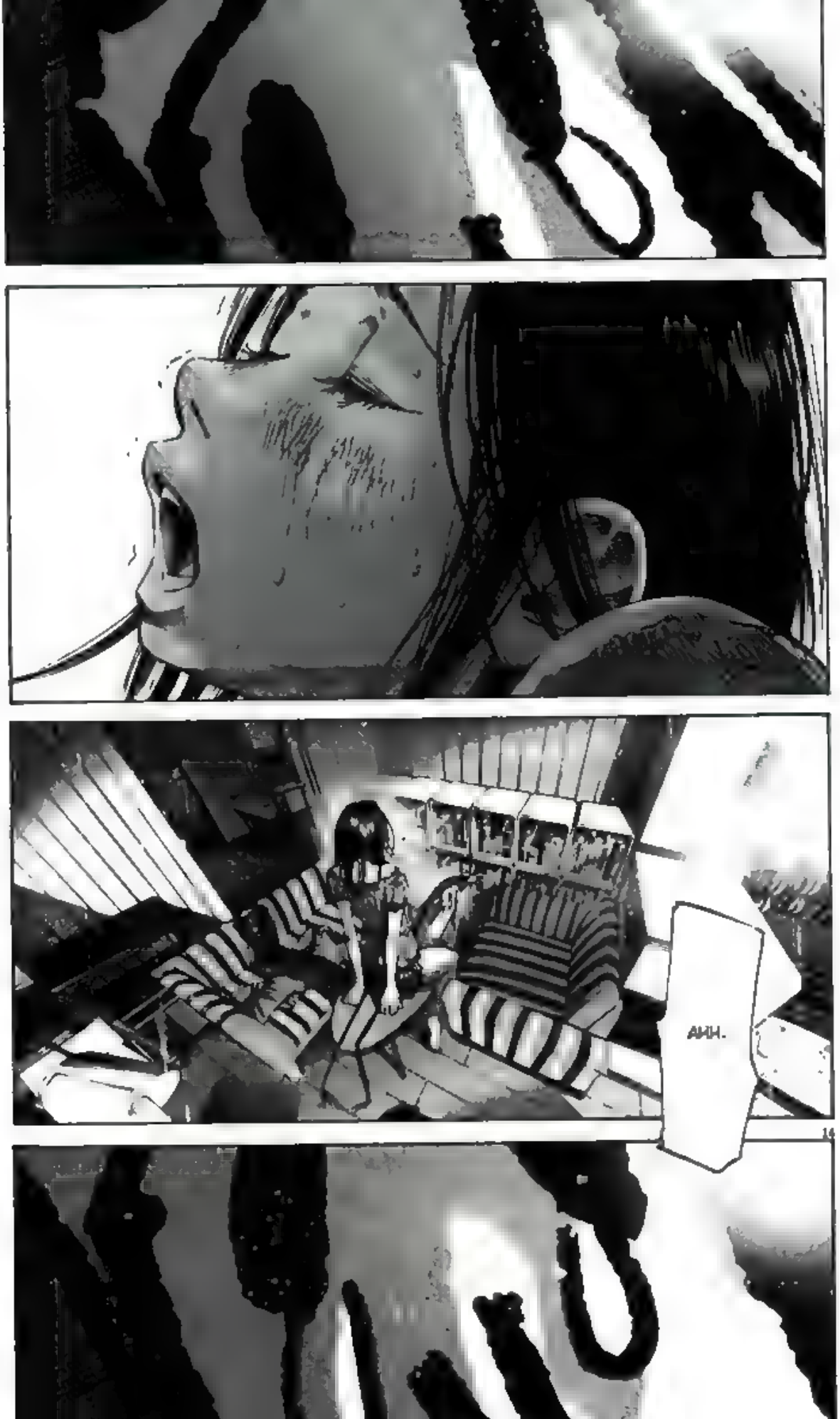
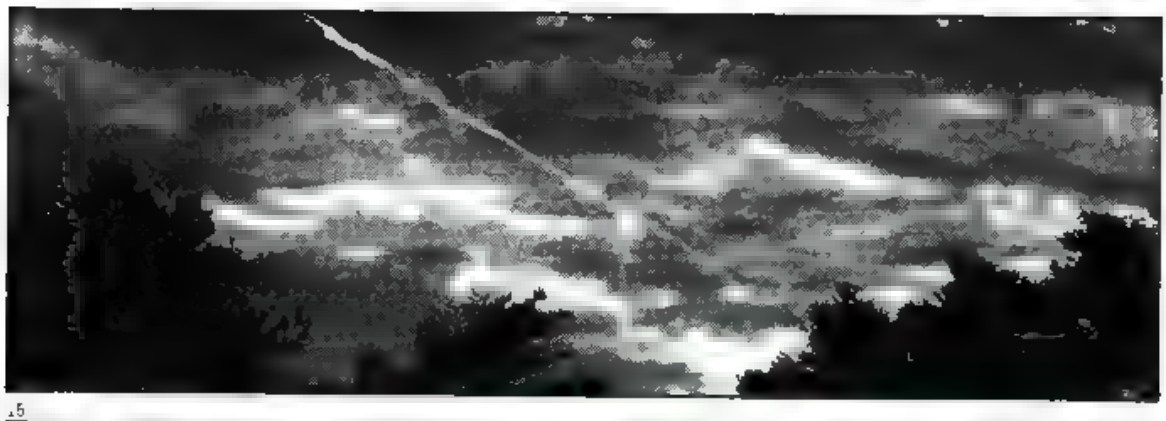
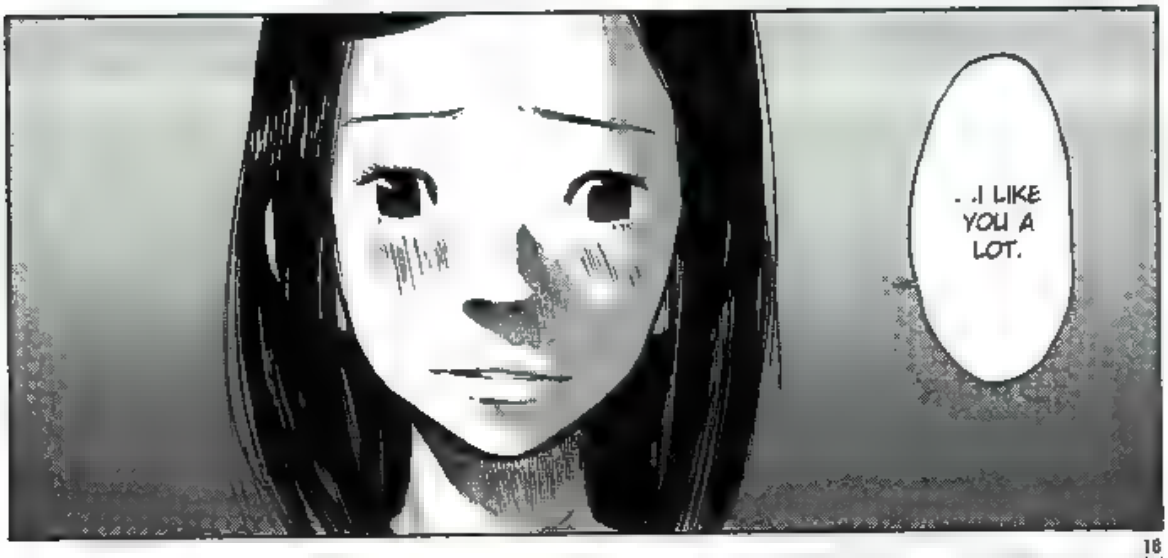

AHH.



16

PLEASE JUST THINK OF IT AS A LITTLE GIFT FOR GRAD-UATING...
THAT...

PUNPUN. .
ARE YOU GOING HOME?


. .I LIKE YOU A LOT.

... PLEASE.
COME AGAIN ..

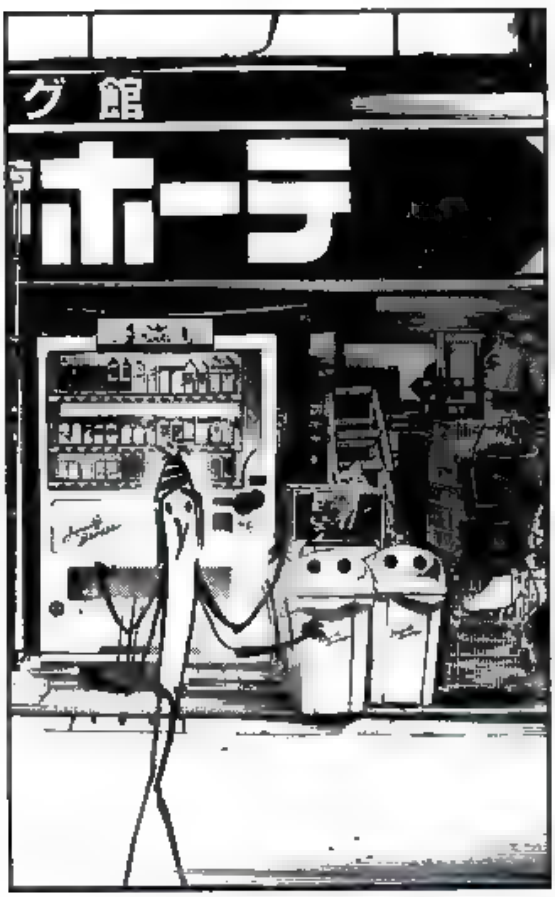
PUNPUN CLOSED THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING,

AND SO HE LEFT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.

HE FELT THAT HE WOULD LOSE SOMETHING VERY DEAR TO HIM

IF HE LET EVEN A SINGLE WORD OUT FROM HIS MOUTH



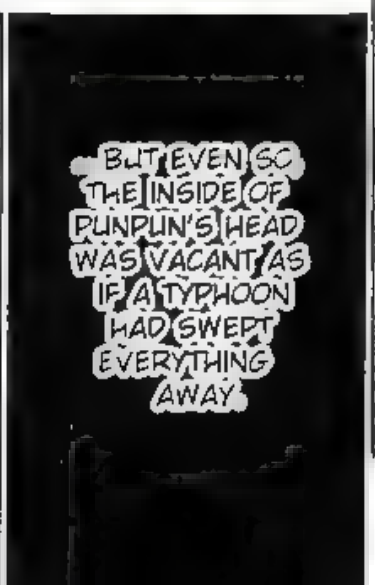
SCANLATED BY HOX

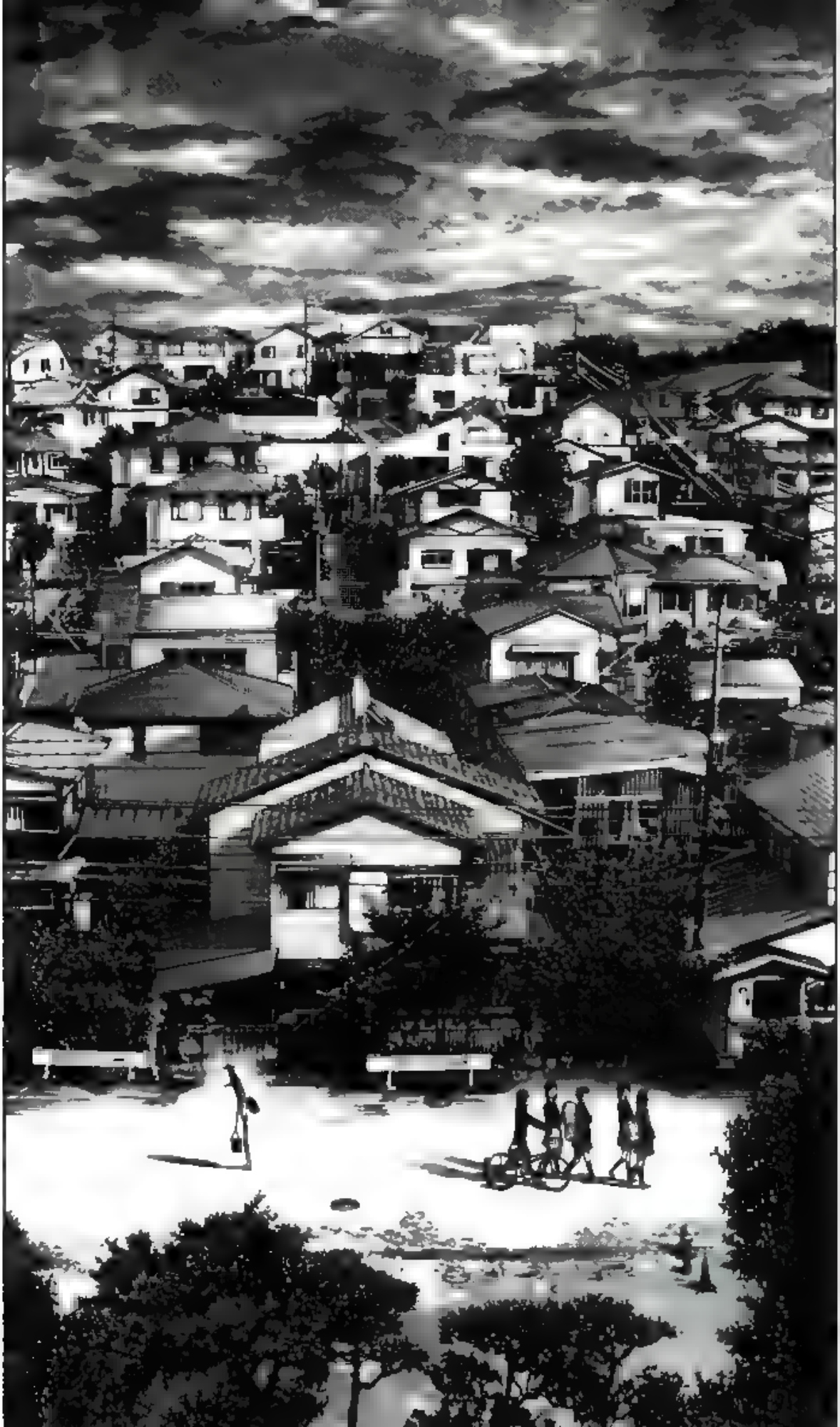
AT THAT MOMENT, PUNPUN FELT LIKE HE UNDERSTOOD ALL OF HUMANITY'S SECRETS.

GARBLE GARBLE' AFUUUU SOOOO'
FAAH' ANNNH'
LIKE KABLAM' AND SMACK'

PUNPUN,
I KNOW YOU'RE A BIT TROUBLED BY THINGS BUT I THINK THIS ONE LOOKS THE BEST ON YOU. KEEP STUDYING HARD AS ALWAYS AND COME VISIT ME
THEN.
-MIDORI-

2


BUT EVEN SO THE INSIDE OF PUNPUN'S HEAD WAS VACANT AS IF A TYPHOON HAD SWEPT EVERYTHING AWAY.



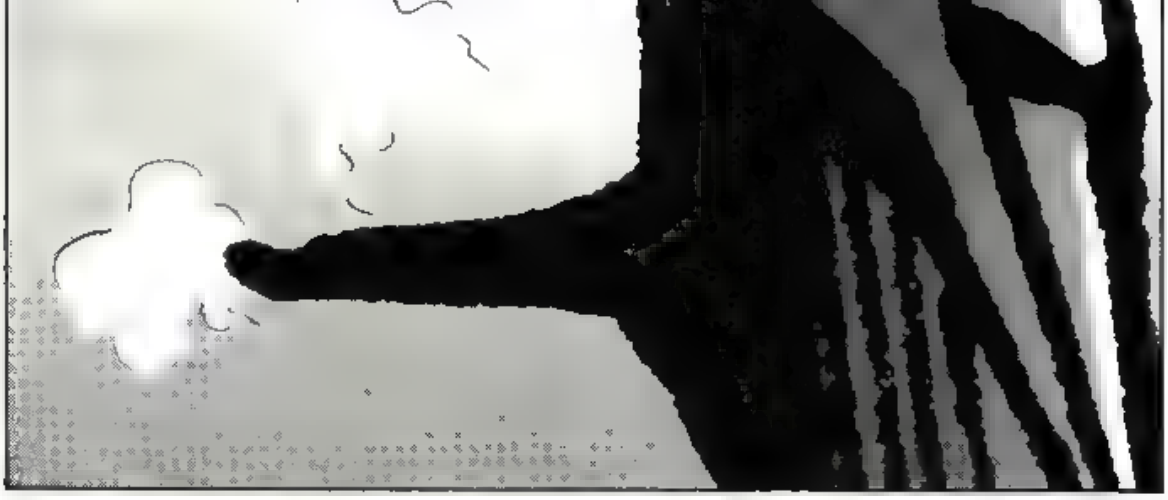
PUNPUN WAS ANGRY AT HOW IMPERTINENT IT WAS FOR SETTING WHENEVER IT WANTED WITHOUT REGARDING THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS.

AS THE SUN GRADUALLY DYED THE SKIES RED,

AND I WAS JUST STANDING AND QUIVERING.

HIS SHADOW GREW LONGER AND THINNER AND LOST A PLACE TO GO.

AS THIS IRRESPONSIBLE SUN SET BEHIND HIM.



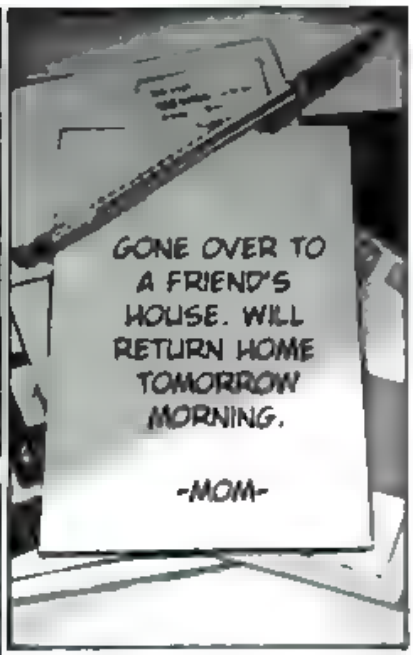
"WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?"

PUNPUN ASKED HIS SHADOW.

PERMEATED INTO PUNPUN'S HEART.

BUT THE SHADOW IGNORED HIS QUESTION AND THE AIMLESSNESS OF IT'S DANCE.

803 ONODERA


GONE OVER TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE. WILL RETURN HOME TOMORROW MORNING.
-MOM-

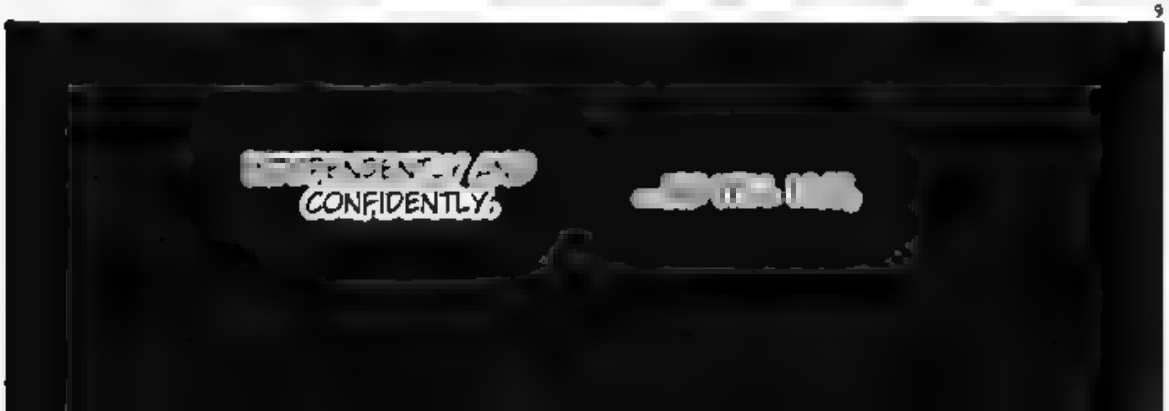
"TO KAGO-SHIMA!!"
"THEN SHOULD WE GO NOW?"

HEY!!

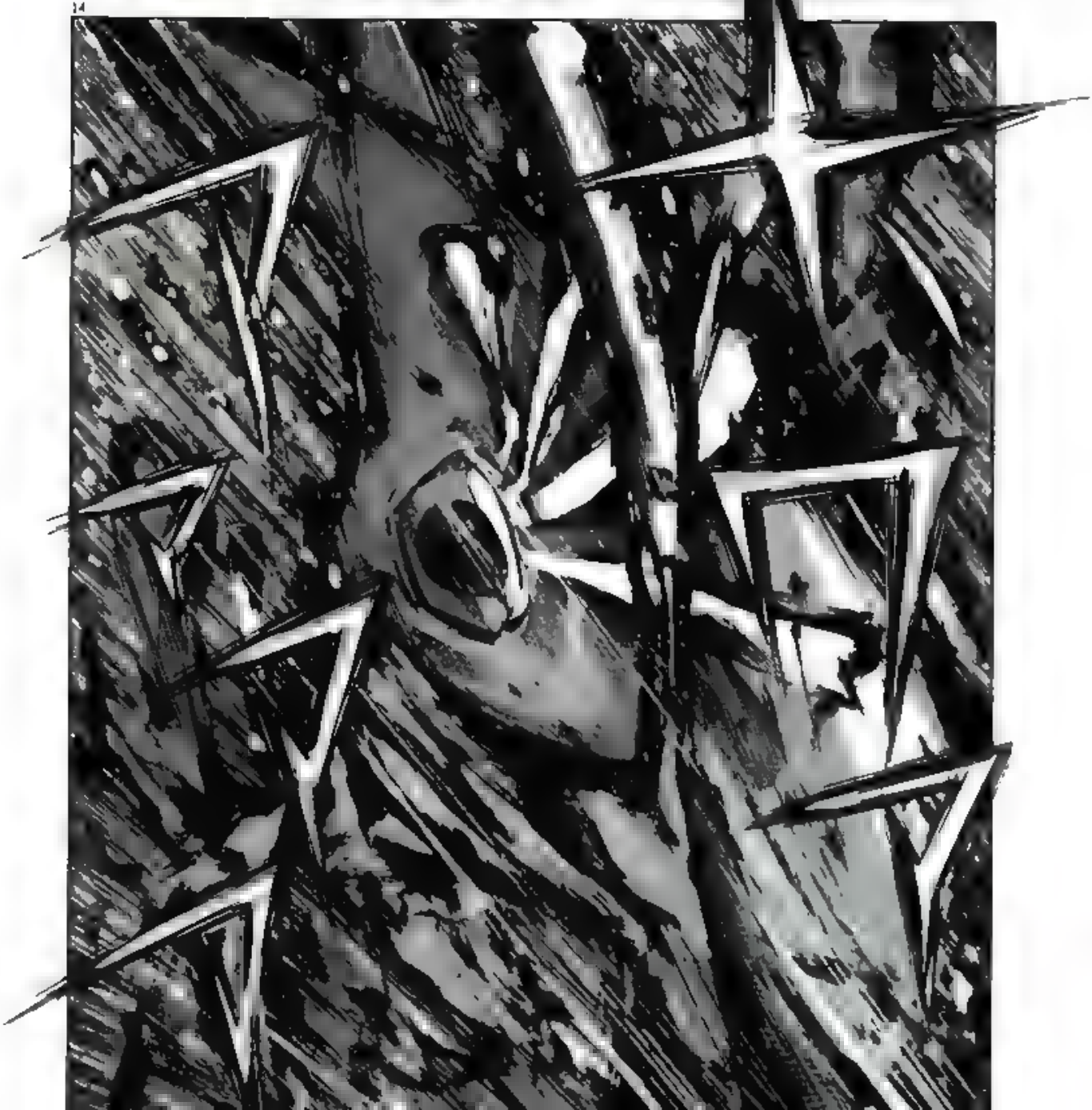
PERHAPS....
THE AFTERWORLD?

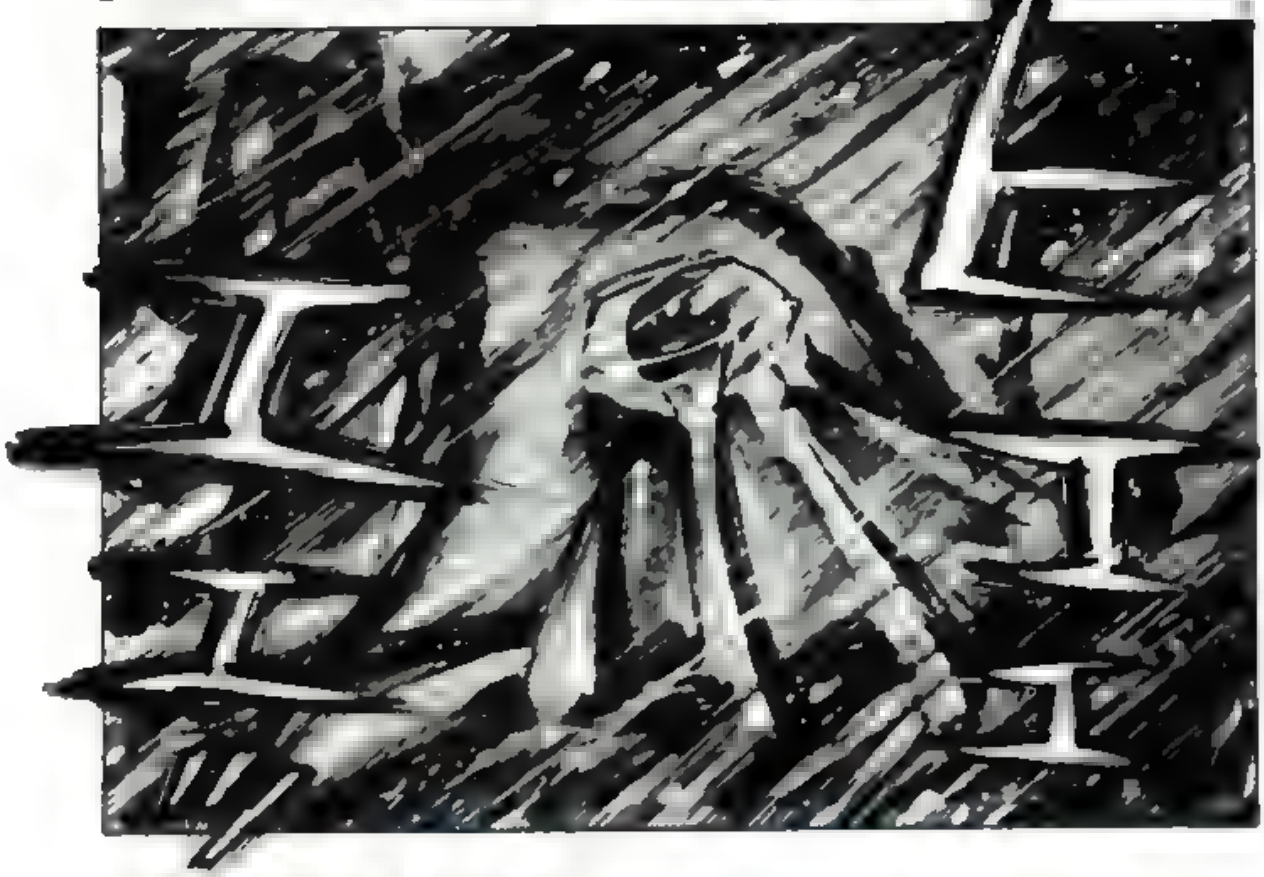
THAT'S RIGHT
IT SEEMED LIKE TOO SIMPLE OF AN ANSWER
YES!! YES!!

HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE IT ON HIS OWN WITHOUT RELYING ON ANYONE LIKE A STRONG BOY!!
HEH
NARUTO IS A CHEERFUL KID WHO TRIES HIS BEST! HE'S VERY SMART! HE'S A MIGHTGUY LIKE ROCK LEE!!

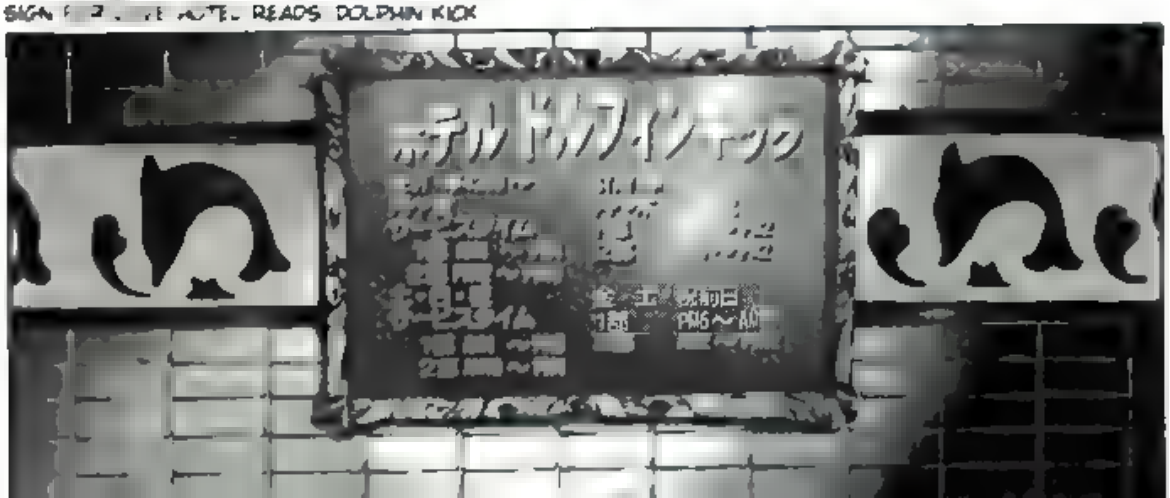

CONFIDENTLY.

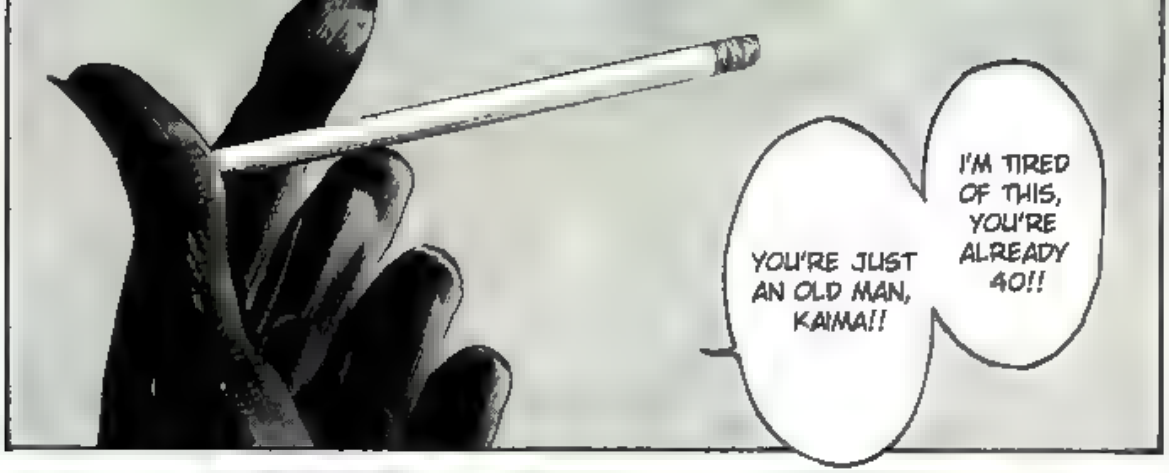
14

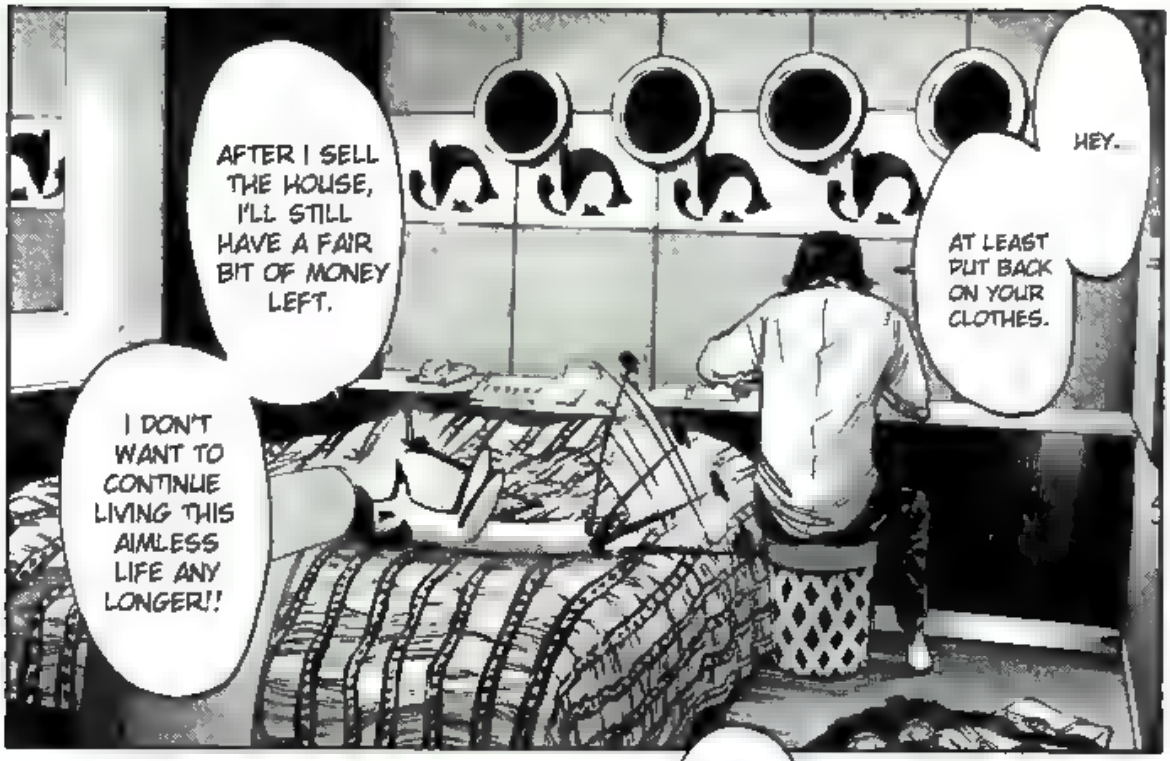




SIGN [illegible] MOTEL READS DOLPHIN KICK




I'M TIRED OF THIS, YOU'RE ALREADY 40!!
YOU'RE JUST AN OLD MAN, KAIMA!!


HEY...
AT LEAST PUT BACK ON YOUR CLOTHES.
AFTER I SELL THE HOUSE, I'LL STILL HAVE A FAIR BIT OF MONEY LEFT.
I DON'T WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING THIS AIMLESS LIFE ANY LONGER!!

...WHA, WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK!
S-STOP!!
DID YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU TO LEAVE YOUR WIFE!?
AND THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE WITH THAT STUPID WOMAN ANYMORE!?

..OF COURSE NOT!!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUCH A SMALL-MINDED PERSON TO THINK OF THINGS LIKE THAT!!
I REALLY DO LIKE THAT SIDE OF YOURS...
THAT STRONG INDEPEN-DENT SIDE OF YOU ...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
I'M GOING TO RETURN HOME FOR TODAY.
パチンコ
ゲーム
レンタルショップ
スタジオ
マンガ喫茶
飲み放題

竹屋
AHHHH HHHH!!
I WISH THIS WORLD JUST DIS-APPEARED!

ミャカ
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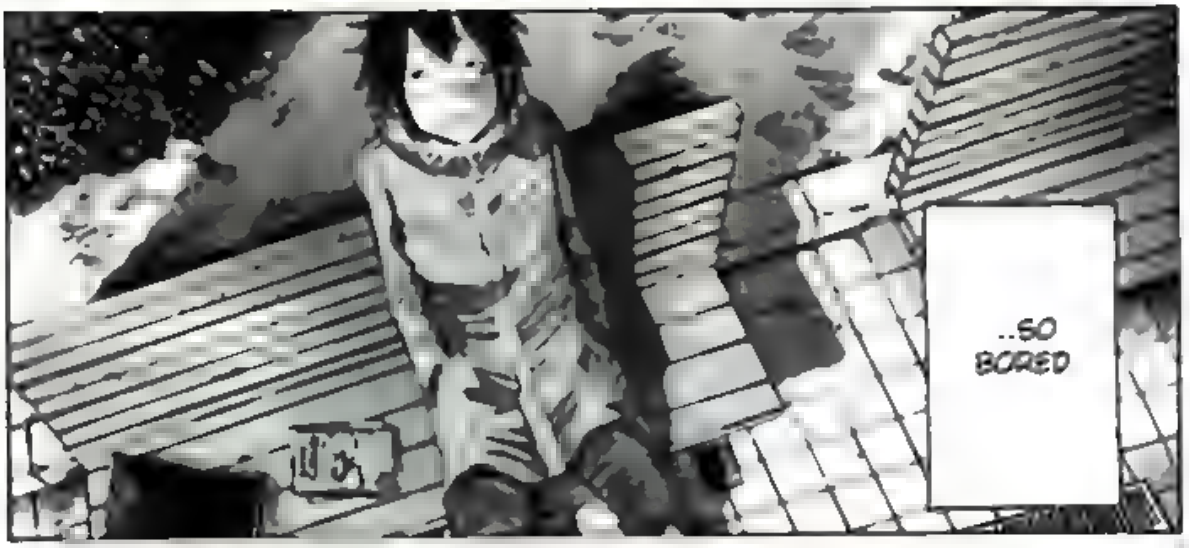
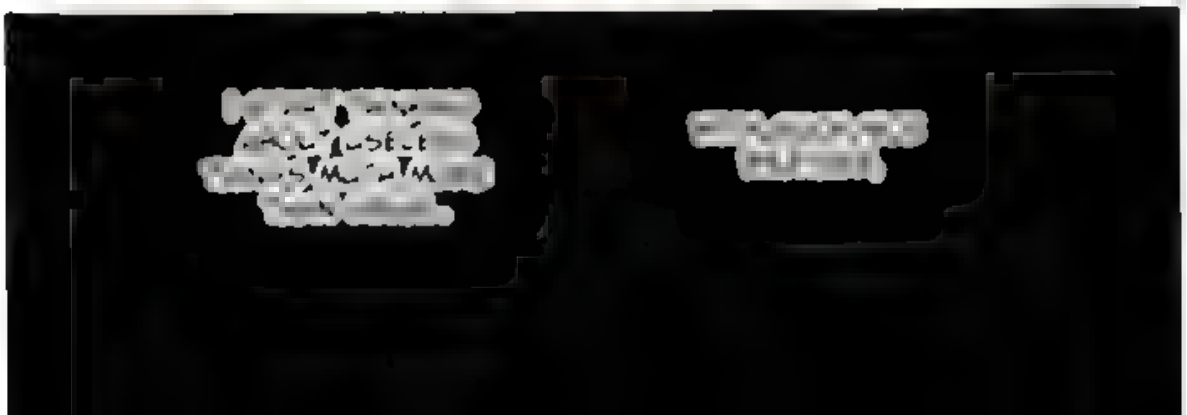

..SO
BORED



IF WE CAN THINK IT, WE CAN DO ALMOST ANYTHING.
ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T FLY THROUGH THE SKIES ALL ALONE,
HUMANS ARE FREE.

WE CAN SLEEP WHEN WE'RE SLEEPY.

2

A BIT HINDERED BY COMMON SENSE, MORALITIES, AND THE RULES OF SOCIETY
WE ARE FREE TO START OR STOP ANYTHING WHENEVER WE WISH

WE CAN DO ALL OF THIS AS LONG AS WE THROW OUT OUR MORALS
WALKING NUDE OUT IN THE STREETS, STEALING FROM THE ELDERLY, AND EVEN KILLING,

EVEN NOW THERE ARE EVENTS OF HAPPINESS AND UNHAPPINESS GOING ON ALL OVER THE WORLD
AND SO PEOPLE SUFFER BECAUSE THEY LIVE
AND YET, PEOPLE STILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT, DECEIVE, AND STEAL FROM EACH OTHER
WHICH IS WHY THEY DRILL THESE LAWS IN OUR HEAD WHEN WE ARE CHILDREN

...WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE EVERY-ONE HAPPY?

BUT ALSO DISLIKE JUST LEAVING THAT PROBLEM UP TO SOCIETY OR THE GOVERNMENT
OF COURSE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO KNOW. IF THE ANSWER TO THAT COULD BE FOUND IN THE SHALLOW WISDOMS OF A KID, WARS WOULD HAVE
IN THIS WORLD,
AFTER ALL, A GREAT PERSON IS JUST ONE WHO FOLLOWS THE POPULAR WILL OF THE

AND THAT'S HOW PEOPLE WANT IT
I'M SURE THAT THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY

BUT WHEN A PERSON DOES ANYTHING FOR LOVES, WARS BREAK OUT
CAN BECOME DEMONS WHEN THEY

誰でも
NO MATTER HOW MUCH A PERSON PRETENDS TO BE GOOD AND KIND, HE WILL STILL HAVE NEGATIVE ASPECTS
誰も気付かない
BUT NOBODY REALLY TRIES TO NOTICE THAT FACT
なぜ？
WHY IS THAT?
言い訳ばかり
THEY ALL TRY TO PLACE THE BLAME ON OTHERS
すべて他人のせい
AND NEVER EVEN CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY THEMSELVES MAY HAVE PLAYED PART IN THE PROBLEM.

世界は何も変わらない
JUST WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING? THE WORLD ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE NO MATTER WHAT I THINK
俺はどうすればいい？
THEN WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?
GUES WHO?
何もしたくない
DON'T REALLY WANT TO DO ANYTHING
誰にも迷惑はかけられない
I DON'T WANT TO ORDER NOR TROUBLE ANYONE

ニートだって
THAT'S JUST LAZINESS, I GUESS.
仕事もなく
I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL NOR DO I WORK AND I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME AWAY SINCE NOON
俺なんて
LOOK AT ME, TALKING ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF HUMANS WHEN I'M JUST SOME SUSPISCIOUS PUNK IN THIS TOWN.
結局自分
IN CONCLUSION, I HAVE NOTHING
一番言いたいこと
AND THE THING I WANT TO SAY THE MOST RIGHT NOW IS

I REALLY WANT .
SOME MONEY RIGHT NOW!!

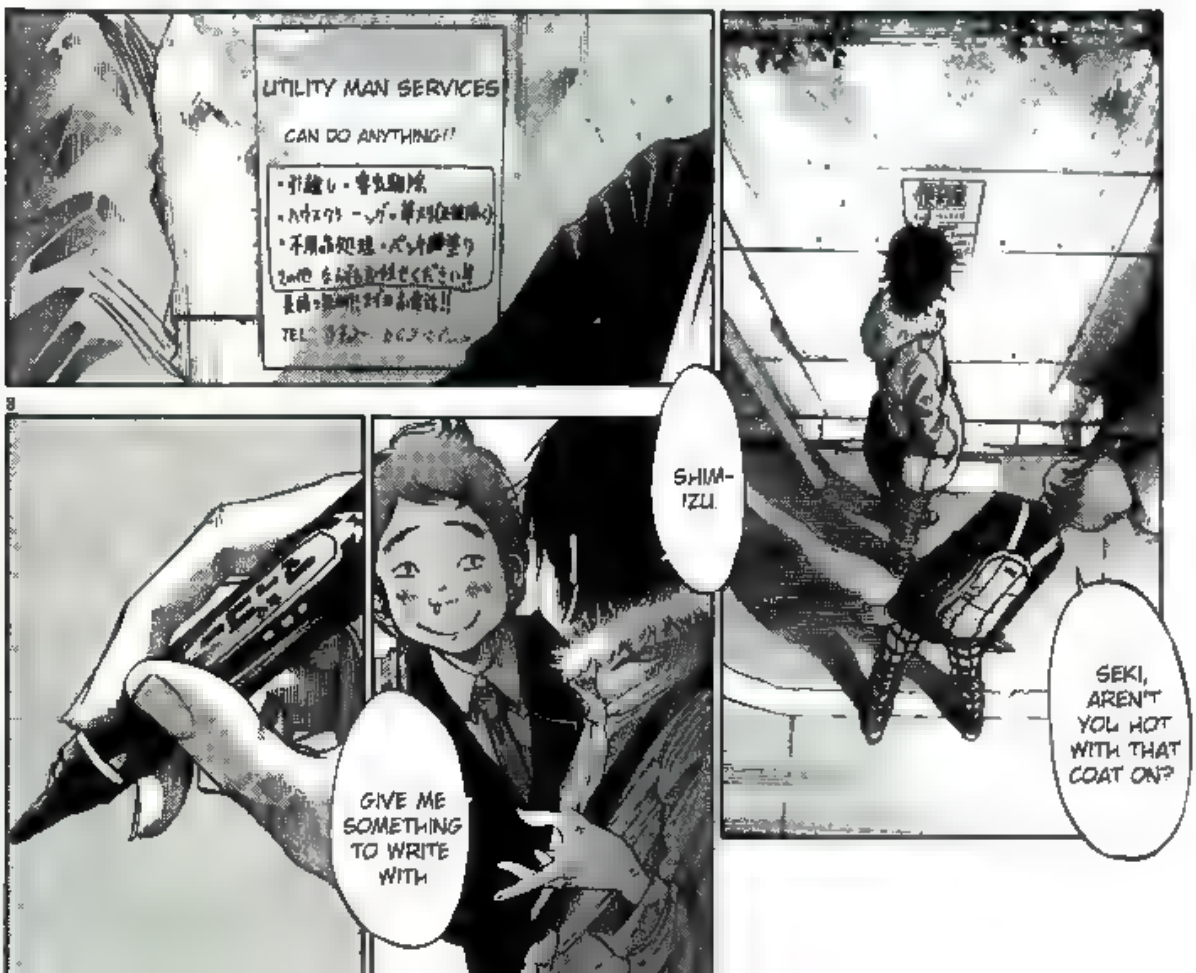
AS THEY SAY, "POVERTY DULLS THE WIT,"
I WAS SO HUNGRY THAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE MOST USELESS THINGS.

..NOPE.

SHIMIZU,
YOU HAVE ANY MONEY ON YOU?

I SEE.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A WEEKDAY AFTERNOON YOU STILL HAVE NONE.

WELL, TODAY WAS THE MID-TERM TEST SO.
I SEE, IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY. YOU DOING WELL IN SCHOOL?
. HEH, MOST LIKELY NOT
AT LEAST, NOT WITH YOU ALWAYS HANGING AROUND WITH ME.
SEKI
DID YOUR DAD COME BACK?
NOPE, NOT EVEN A HINT OF HIM RETURNING.
IN FACT, IF WE CAN'T BRING IN THE MONEY THIS TIME, WE MIGHT EVEN BE FORCED TO GIVE UP OUR HOME.
AND THEN WE'LL ALL BE HOMELESS, HAHA.
.....
LET'S WALK A LITTLE.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A DROPPED WALLET OR SOMETHING.


UTILITY MAN SERVICES
CAN DO ANYTHING!!
SEKI, AREN'T YOU HOT WITH THAT COAT ON?
SHIM-IZU.
GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH

NO, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!
AND THIS IS MY PHONE NUMBER!
HEY.
WHA...
BE QUIET
I DON'T HAVE A CELLPHONE SO HAVE NO CHOICE
HOW ABOUT YOU JUST MAKE AND SELL LUNCHSETS FROM YOUR HOME LIKE DAD!
SEKI, JUST FIND A MORE NORMAL JOB!!
YOU IDIOT, YOU NEED TO BE GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS AND HAVE THE PROPER QUALIFICATIONS FOR THAT
AND I'LL END UP PASSING OUT IF I TRY TO USE THAT PORTABLE STOVE OF MINE
AH .
HEY YOU TWO,

ARE YOU TWO,
IN NEED OF SOME MONEY RIGHT NOW?

...YEAH.

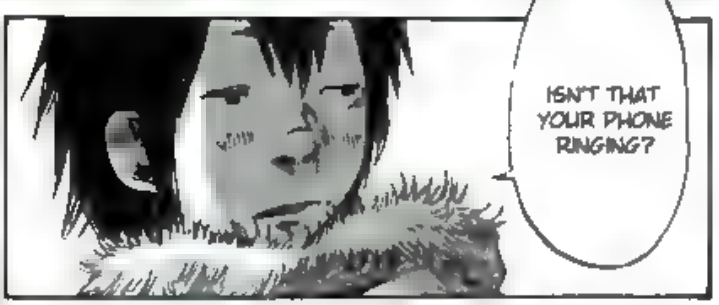
AH...THIS IS JUST SOMETHING FROM MY REAL ESTATE OFFICE,
IT WAS REALLY DIRTY SO I THOUGHT I'D REMOVE IT.

I HAVE...
A JOB FOR YOU THEN.

IS THAT SO.
...CLEANING?
I CAN DO THAT EASILY.
ASKING PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES CAN BE QUITE EXPENSIVE.
SO I WAS DOING IT BY MYSELF AND I'VE WORN MYSELF OUT

RING RING
RING RING

HELLO?


ISN'T THAT YOUR PHONE RINGING?

WHY AREN'T YOU PICKING UP...?

I CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.
YES.
AH, YES.

AH, YES. . OK
IF YOU COULD JUST CHOOSE A MEETING PLACE
TODAY IS FINE.

YOU CAN CLEAN BY YOURSELF RIGHT?
. HUH?

OK, I'M GOING TO BE BORROWING YOUR PHONE FOR A BIT
AS ALWAYS, WE'LL MEET AT THE PARK WHEN I'M DONE.

YOU NEED TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT, SHIMIZU!!

穴戸建物
YOUR FRIEND SURE DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS.

RESTAURANT
南風が吹いた

I WANT REVENGE.

HERE'S THE EXPENSES AND YOUR MEETING FEE.
AND IT'S WRITTEN HERE WHERE HE'S USUALLY AT ON CERTAIN DAYS.
I DON'T THINK IT'LL TAKE LONG TO FIND HIM.

UMM...
JUST TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU MEAN BY REVENGE..
DO YOU MEAN KNOCKING HIM OUT FROM BEHIND,
BLACK-MAILING HIM,
OR PUSHING HIM OFF FROM A ROOFTOP?
HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF THE DETAILS BUT
IF POSSI-BLE..

SOMETHING SO BAD TO HIS LIFE,
THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM.

THIS IS JUST MY CURIOSITY SPEAKING,
AND THUS YOU DON'T NEED TO ANSWER ME BUT
JUST WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS MAN?

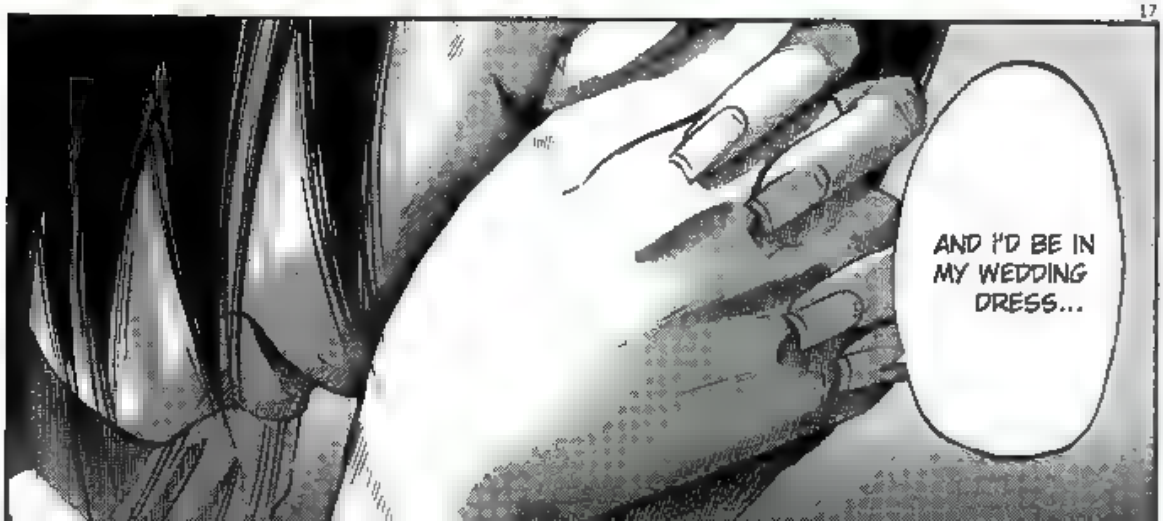
MY FORMER COL-LEAGUE FROM WORK.
AND MY FORMER LOVER.
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ENGAGED AND EVEN SET OUR WEDDING DATE,
HE SUDDENLY CALLED OFF EVERYTHING AND BROKE UP WITH ME

16

I'VE ALWAYS CONSID-ERED MYSELF AS A CAPABLE PERSON,
BUT EVER SINCE I QUIT MY LAST COMPANY, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ANOTHER JOB AND NOTHING SEEMS TO GO RIGHT..
WOU-LDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER,
FOR YOU TO NOT HAVE QUIT YOUR LAST JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE? I MEAN YOU WERE ONLY DUMPED.

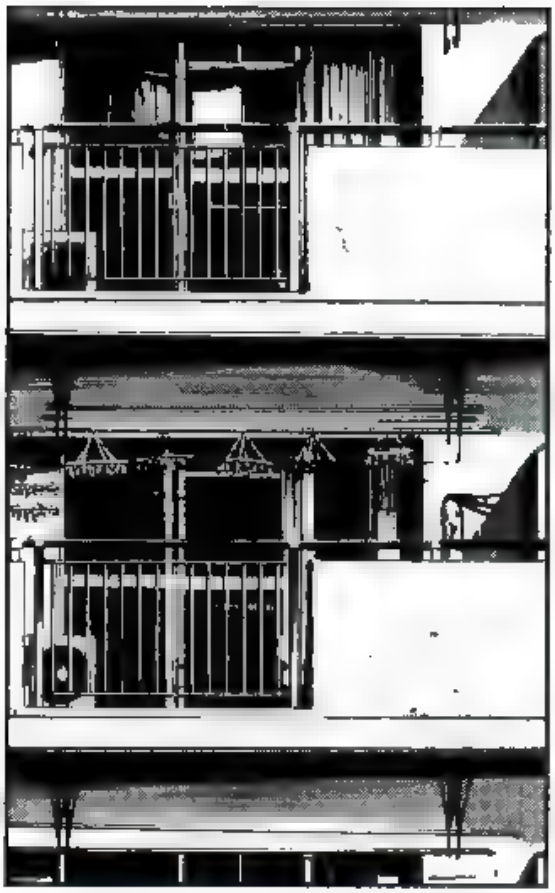
I WONDER IF HE MIGHT BE IN SOME MEETING RIGHT NOW...
BUT YOU KNOW,
EVERYONE AT WORK KNEW THAT ANOTHER WOMAN FROM THE SAME OFFICE STOLE HIM AWAY FROM ME,
AND YET YOU THINK I COULD HAVE STILL CALMLY WORKED?

WE WOULD BE GETTING MARRIED TODAY.
IF HE NEVER BROKE UP WITH ME,


AND I'D BE IN MY WEDDING DRESS...

I'VE DECIDED.
I'LL PAY YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN.
I'M NOT REALLY PLANNING TO LIVE A LONG LIFE ANYWAYS.

SO PLEASE,
KILL HIM.



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第53話

ARE YOU,
REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?

... BECAUSE I'LL REALLY DO THIS.

I WAS ASKED TO KILL A MAN,
AT A FAMILY RESTAURANT BY A PRETTY LADY.

I DIDN'T REALLY FEEL ANYTHING TOWARDS IT.
SHE WANTED TO KILL EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS ONLY RIDICULED.

2

MAYBE THERE'S NO REAL RHYME NOR REASON.
IT JUST HAPPENS
I WONDERED IF THE CASES YOU HEAR ABOUT ON TV WERE LIKE THIS TOO.
JUST HAPPENING ALL OF A SUDDEN

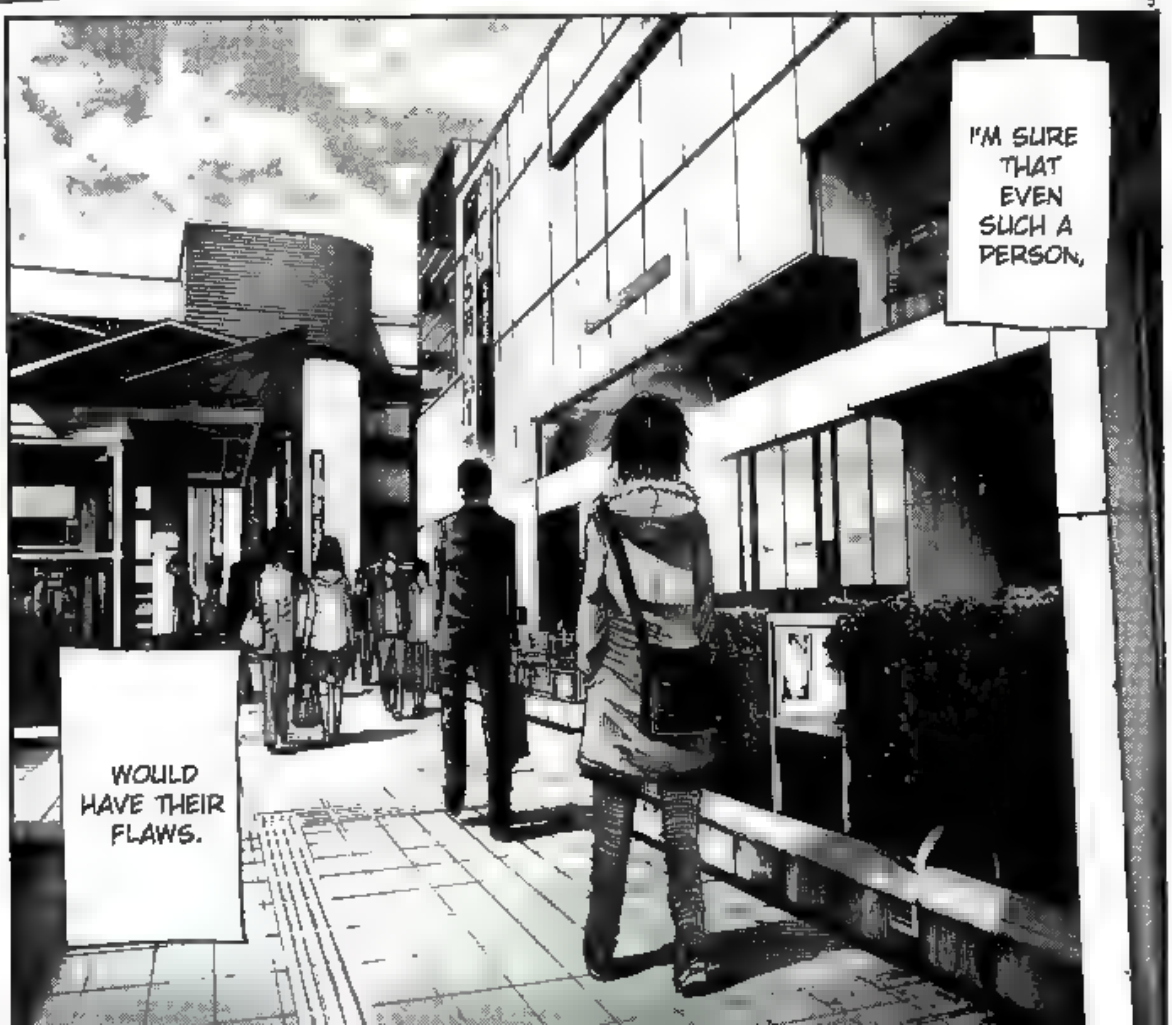
THAT'S JUST HOW FATE IS.
OTHER RDS,

HE'S REALLY HERE...

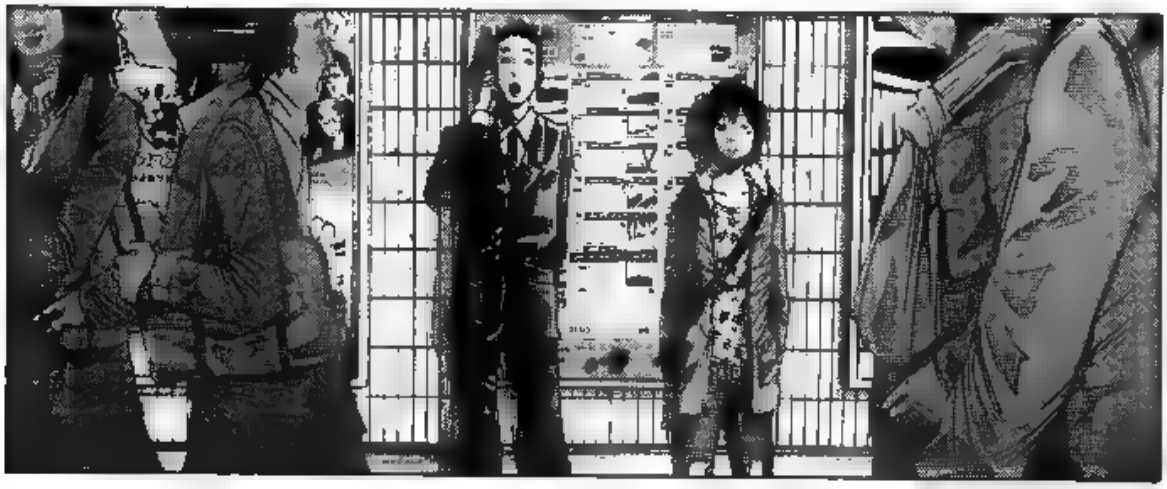
I FEEL THAT THE ME OF NOW,
CAN DO ANYTHING.

松屋
MATSUNOYA
I KNOW. HE'S PROBABLY JUST YOUR AVERAGE CITIZEN

SO I DON'T THINK OF HIM AS AN EVIL PERSON.
HIM, THAT LADY, AND EVEN ME. WE'RE ALL THE SAME PAST OUR SKIN-DEEP DIFFERENCES.
IS THERE EVEN SUCH THING AS A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IN THIS WORLD?


I'M SURE THAT EVEN SUCH A PERSON,
WOULD HAVE THEIR FLAWS.

4/17
第285回

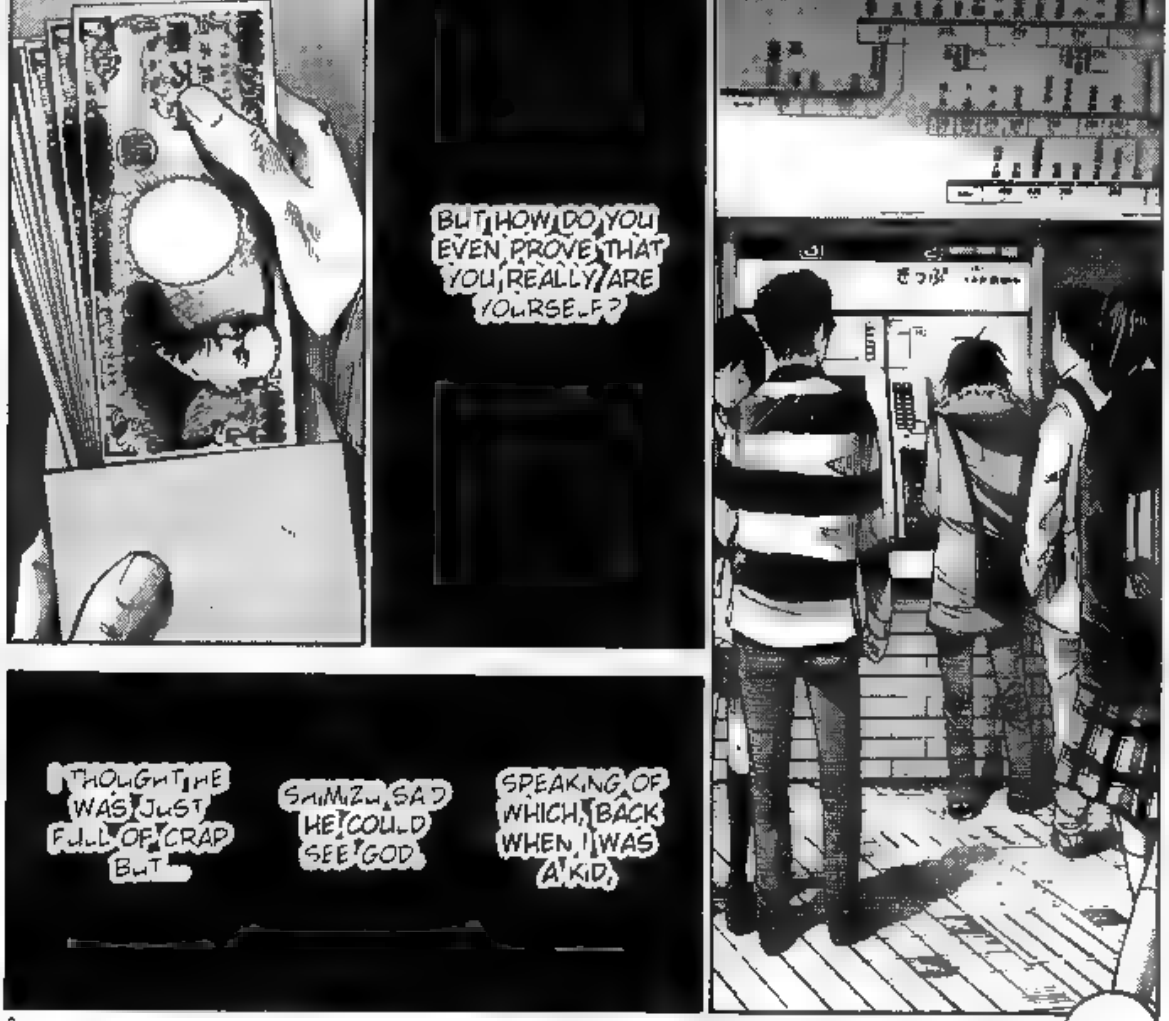


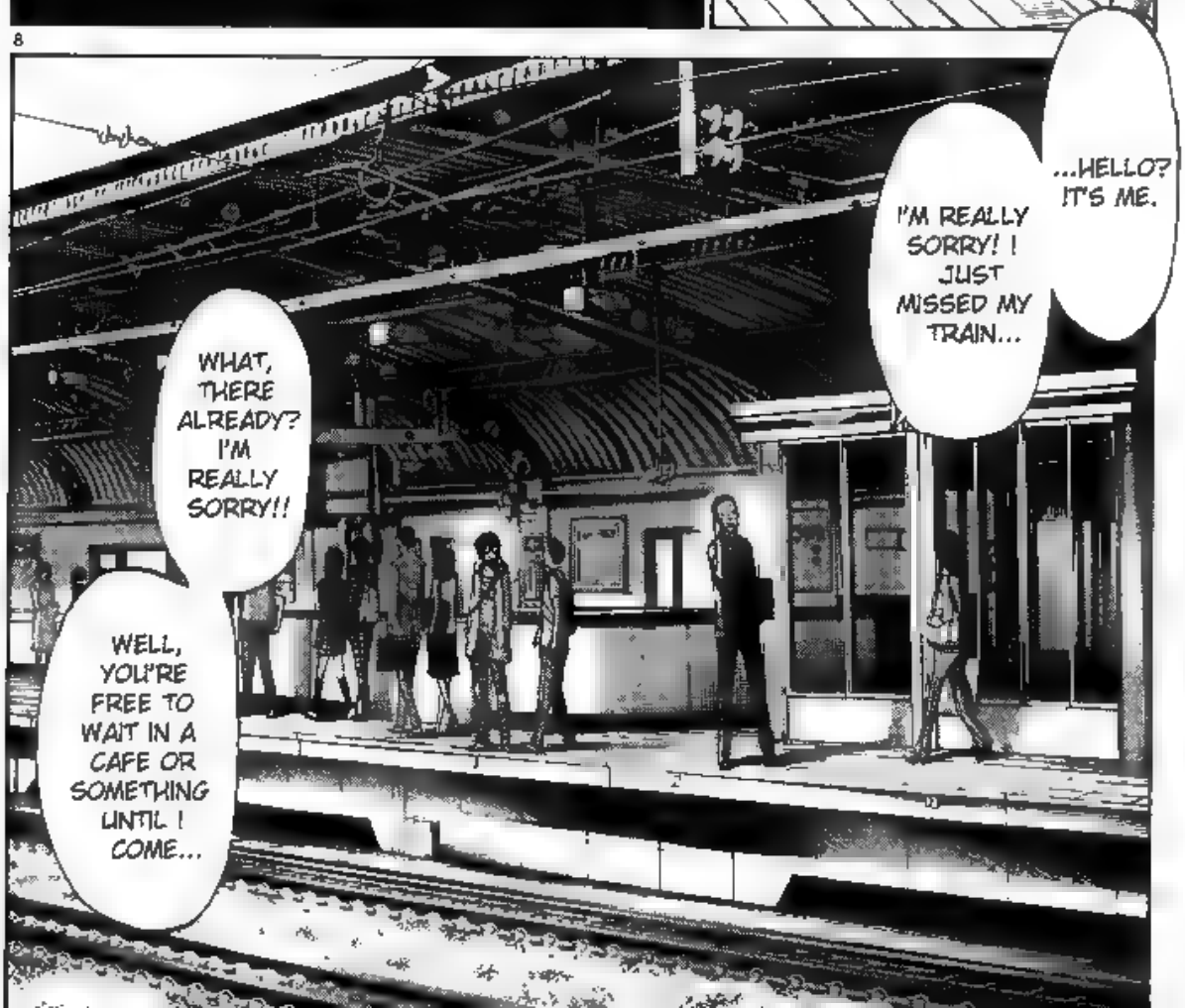
AND ONE DAY THEY JUST STOP MOVING
THEY WORK MOVE RESTLESSLY AS IF THEY'RE PUPPETS
HUMAN BEINGS ARE STRANGER THE MORE YOU OBSERVE THEM

I FEEL AS IF THERE ISN'T A SINGLE REAL LIVING HUMAN BEING HERE?

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE HERE

...WHY IS IT?


BUT HOW DO YOU EVEN PROVE THAT YOU REALLY ARE YOURSELF?
THOUGHT HE WAS JUST FULL OF CRAP BUT
SHIMIZU SAID HE COULD SEE GOD
SPEAKING OF WHICH, BACK WHEN I WAS A KID,


...HELLO? IT'S ME.
I'M REALLY SORRY! I JUST MISSED MY TRAIN...
WHAT, THERE ALREADY? I'M REALLY SORRY!!
WELL, YOU'RE FREE TO WAIT IN A CAFE OR SOMETHING UNTIL I COME...

S ALL PART OF BE NG HUMAN.

THAT STEMS FROM SUCH QUESTIONS AS WONDERING WHO YOU REAL Y ARE.

MAYBE CREATING A GOD TO TAKE OUR WORRIES AND RESPONSIB LITIES AWAY.

MY MIND S SO CLEAR THAT IT ALMOST MAKES ME SICK.

VE ONLY TOUCHED THE 12,000 YEN DEPOSIT IN MY POCKET AND YET

UNFORTUNATE Y FOR YOU TODA

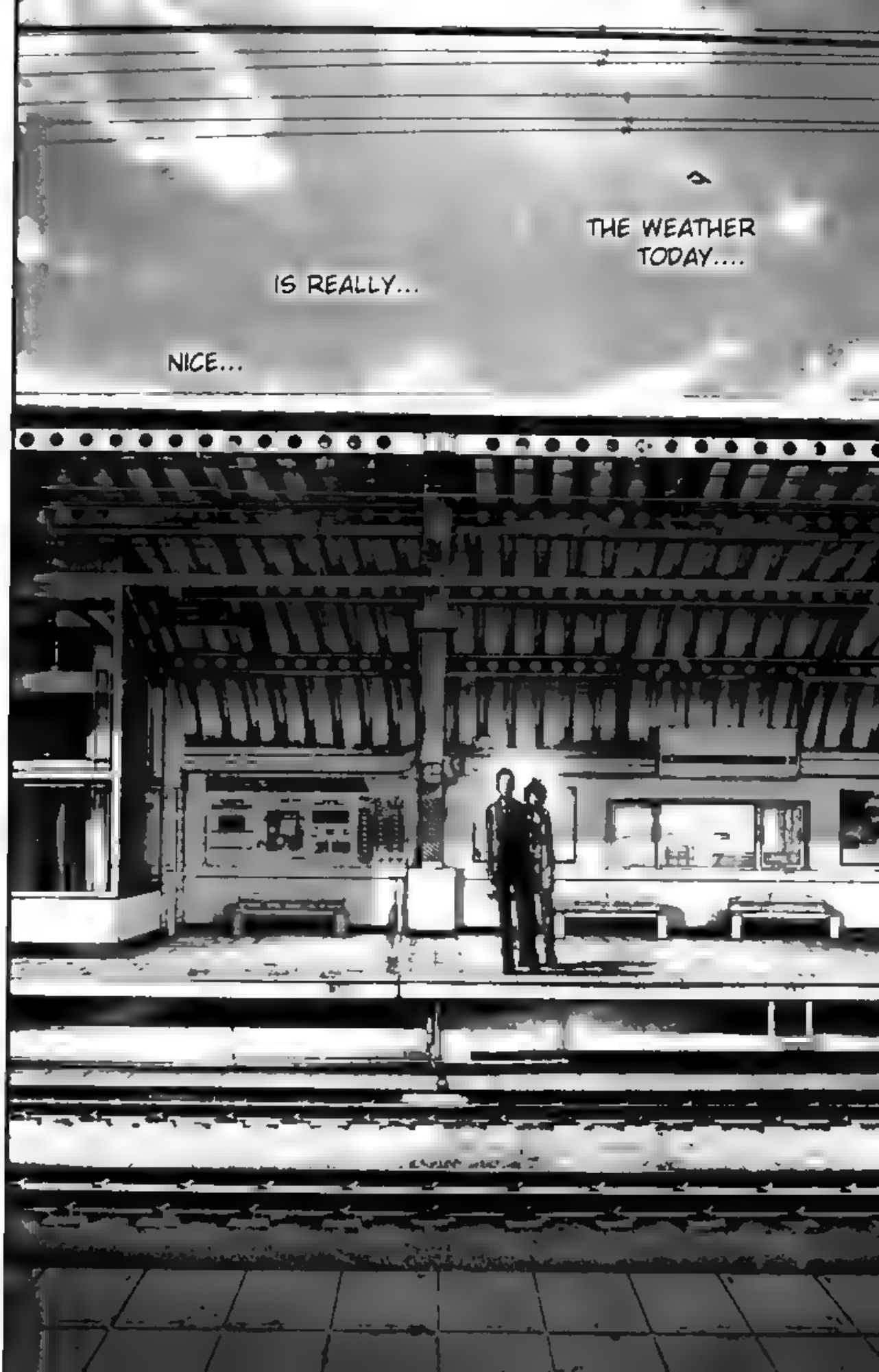
THAT'S ALL.

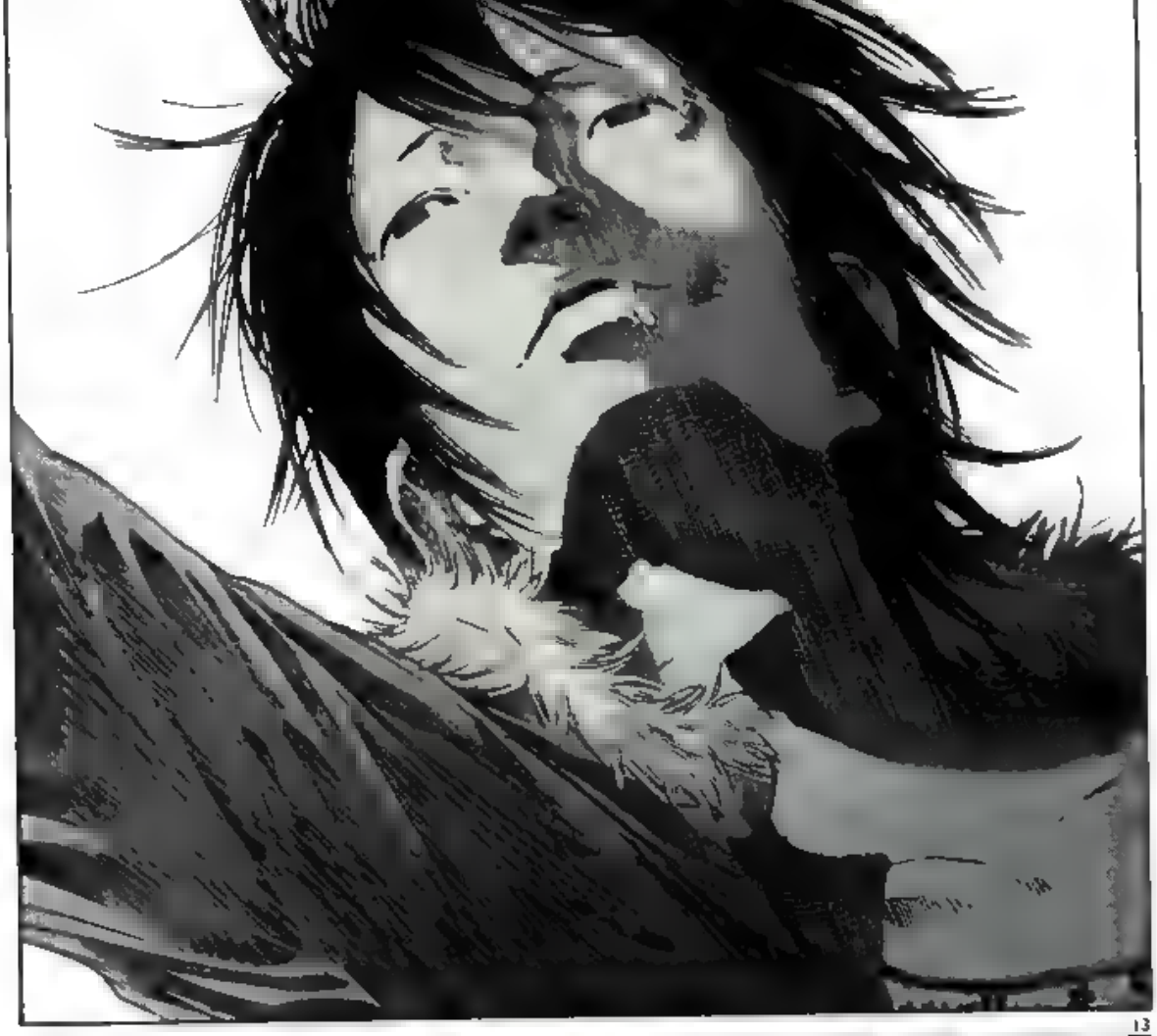
I WILL PUSH BECAUSE THERE IS A BACK IN FRONT OF ME

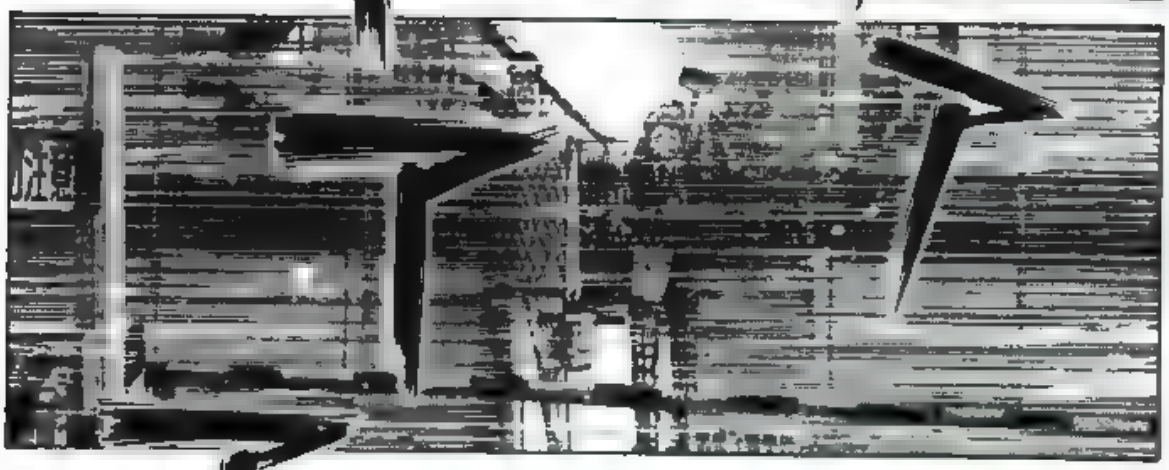
PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE WHITE LINE ...

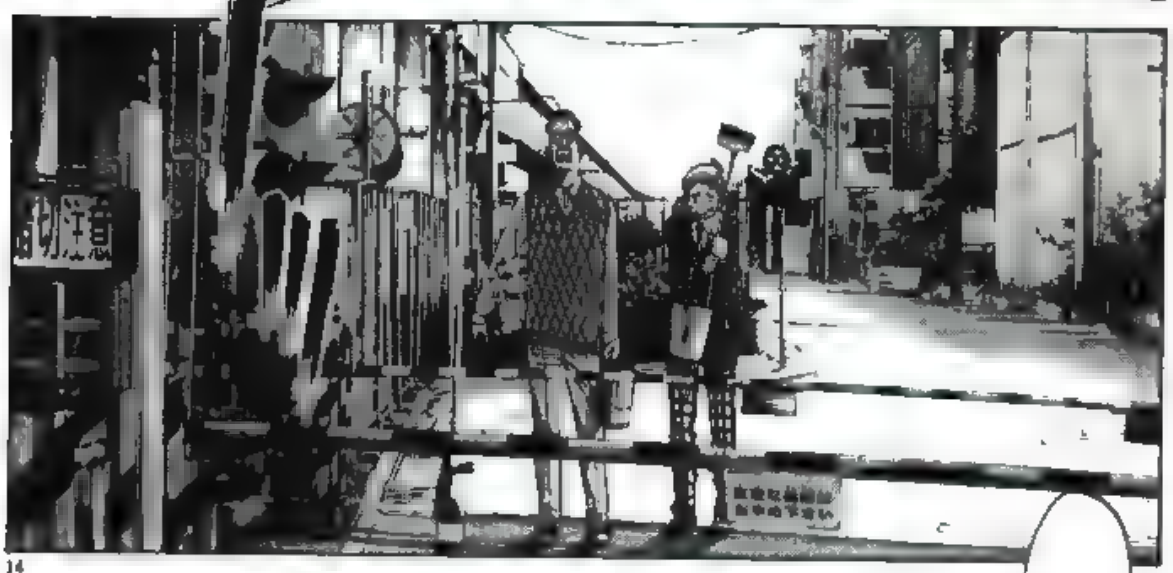
THE RAPID EXPRESS WILL BE SOON PASSING THROUGH PLATFORM 1.

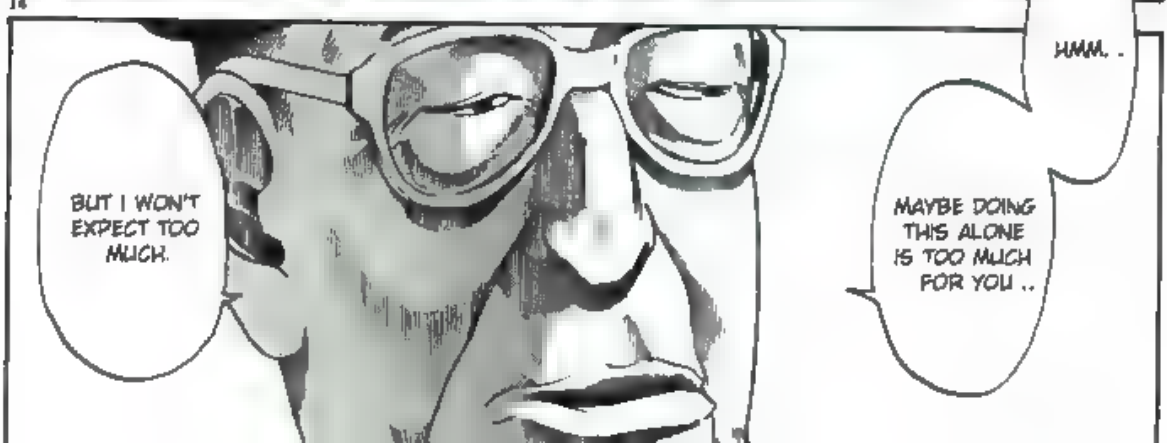
NO ILL INTENT NOR SENSE OF JUSTICE.
THERE'S NO REAL MEANING BEHIND IT.
HEY.
I'M REALLY DOING THIS.
AFTER ALL, HUMANS ARE FREE, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HELL, DAMN IT.
...THE HELL.

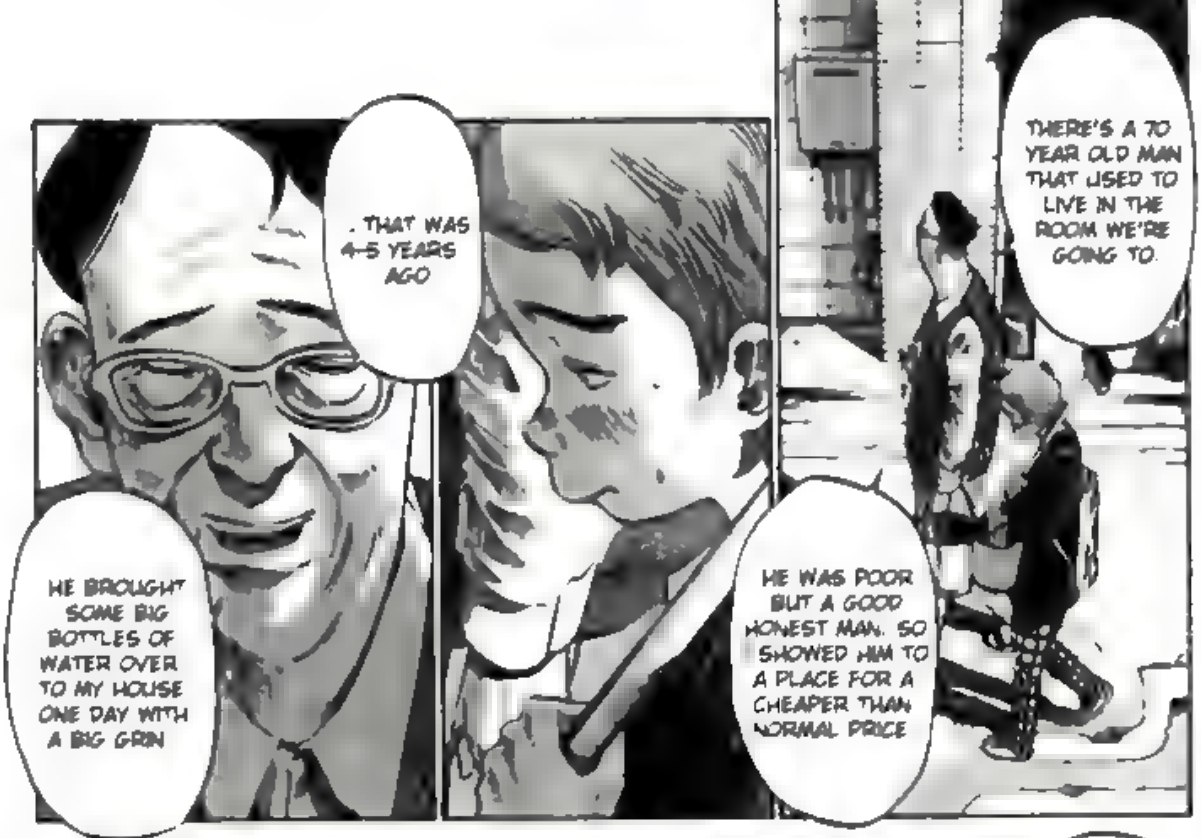

THE WEATHER TODAY....
IS REALLY...
NICE...





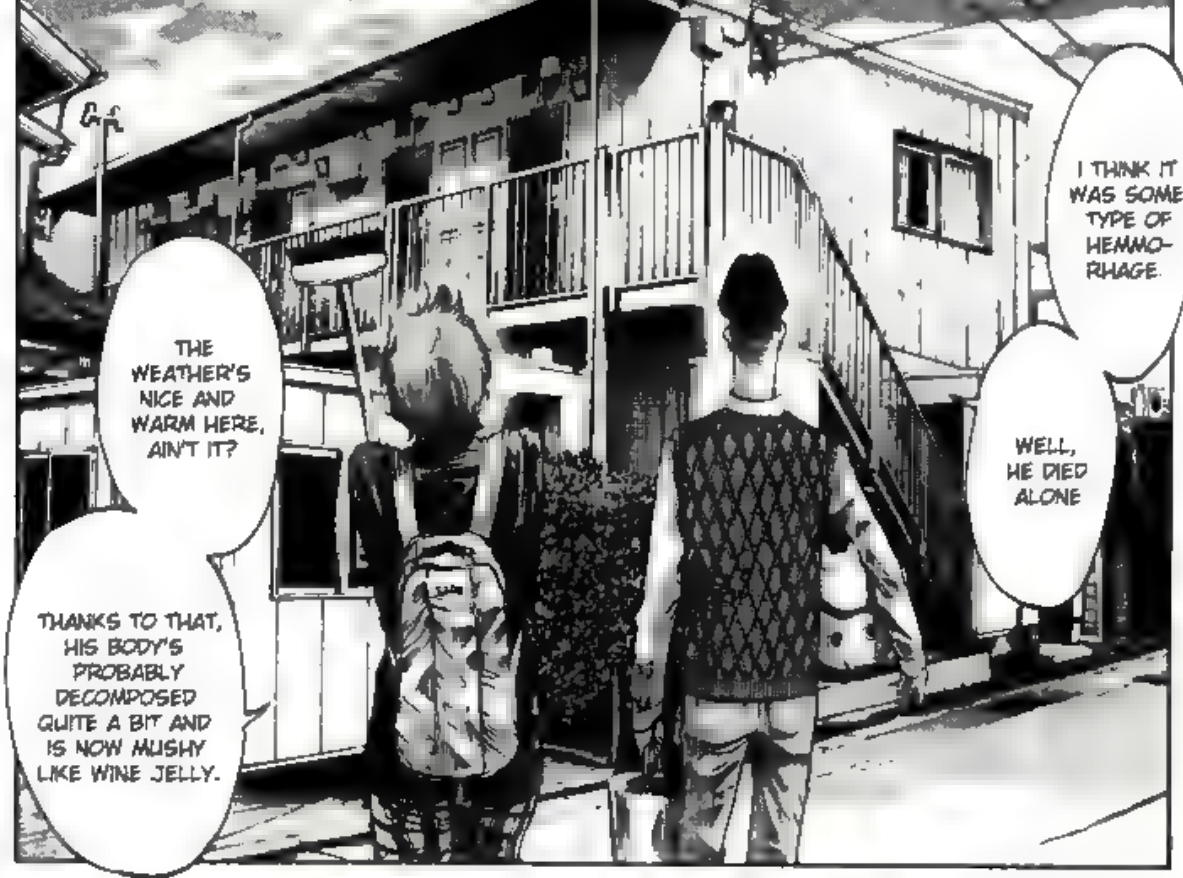



HMM. .
MAYBE DOING THIS ALONE IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU ..
BUT I WON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH.


THERE'S A 70 YEAR OLD MAN THAT USED TO LIVE IN THE ROOM WE'RE GOING TO.
. THAT WAS 4-5 YEARS AGO
HE WAS POOR BUT A GOOD HONEST MAN. SO I SHOWED HIM TO A PLACE FOR A CHEAPER THAN NORMAL PRICE
HE BROUGHT SOME BIG BOTTLES OF WATER OVER TO MY HOUSE ONE DAY WITH A BIG GRIN

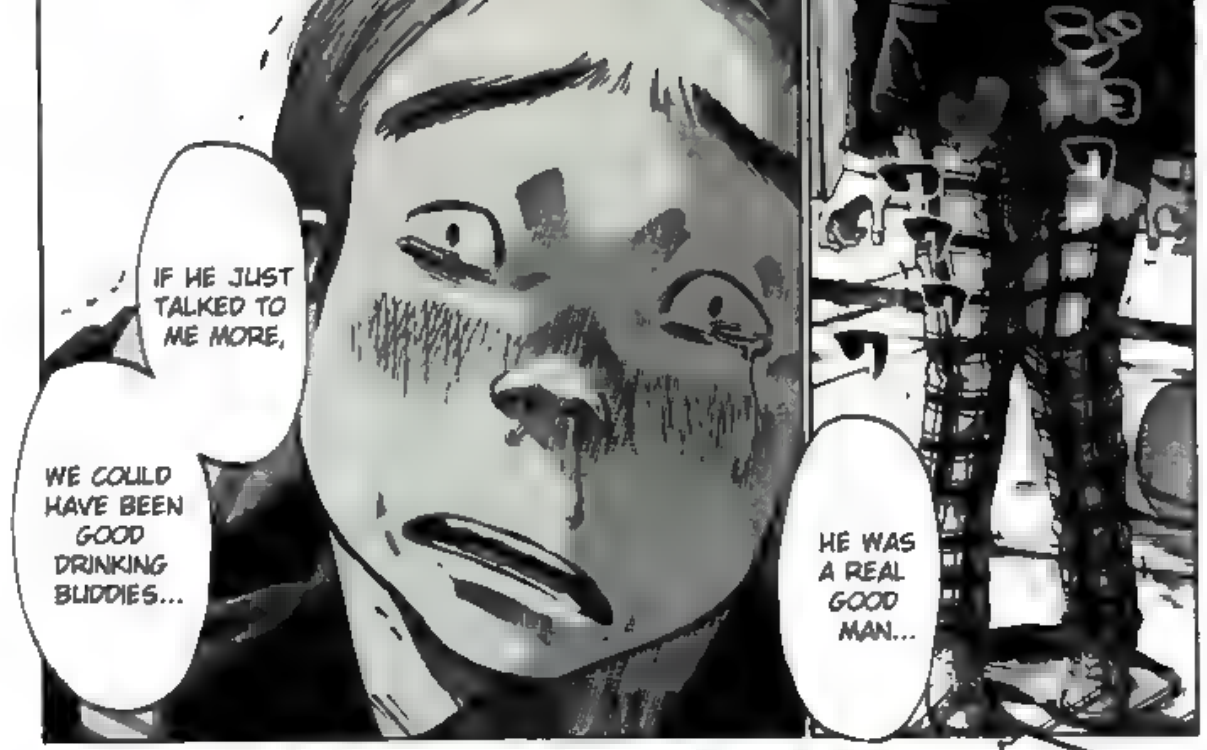
AND HE TOLD ME THAT DRINKING THIS WATER IMPROVES YOUR HEALTH AND IMBIBES YOU WITH ENERGY
AND I THINK HE ALSO SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A LACK OF LAUGHTER BRINGING UNHAPPINESS
AND THEN I ASKED HIM IF HE JOINED SOME KIND OF CULT
BUT HE WAS IN DENIAL..

IN ANY CASE,
I DIDN'T END UP BUYING HIS STRANGE WATER...
..AH, THIS IS THE PLACE.

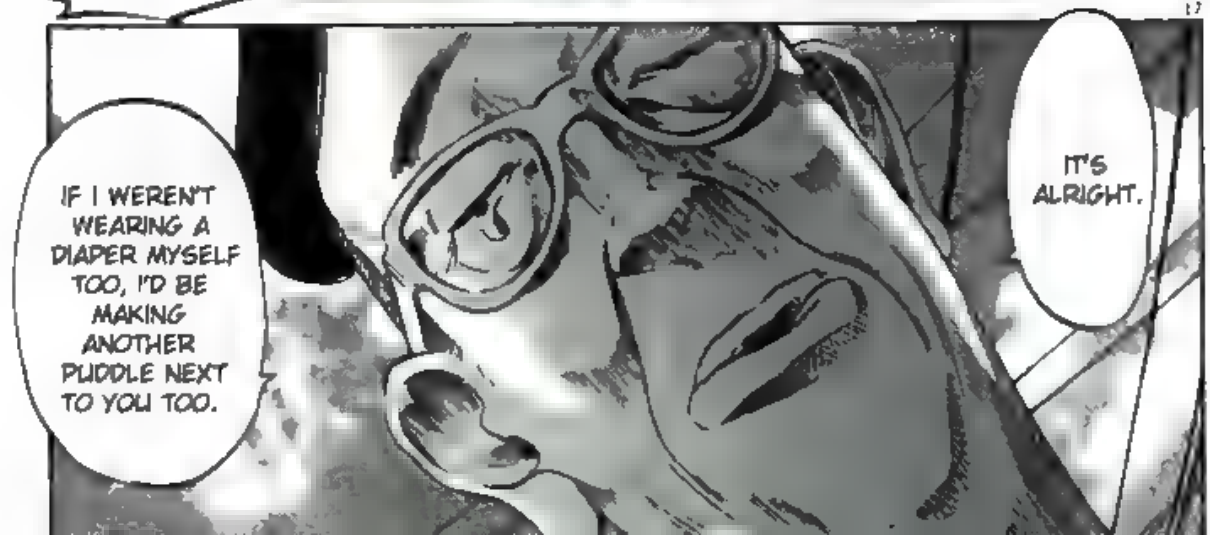

I THINK IT WAS SOME TYPE OF HEMMO-RHAGE.
WELL, HE DIED ALONE
THE WEATHER'S NICE AND WARM HERE, AIN'T IT?
THANKS TO THAT, HIS BODY'S PROBABLY DECOMPOSED QUITE A BIT AND IS NOW MUSHY LIKE WINE JELLY.

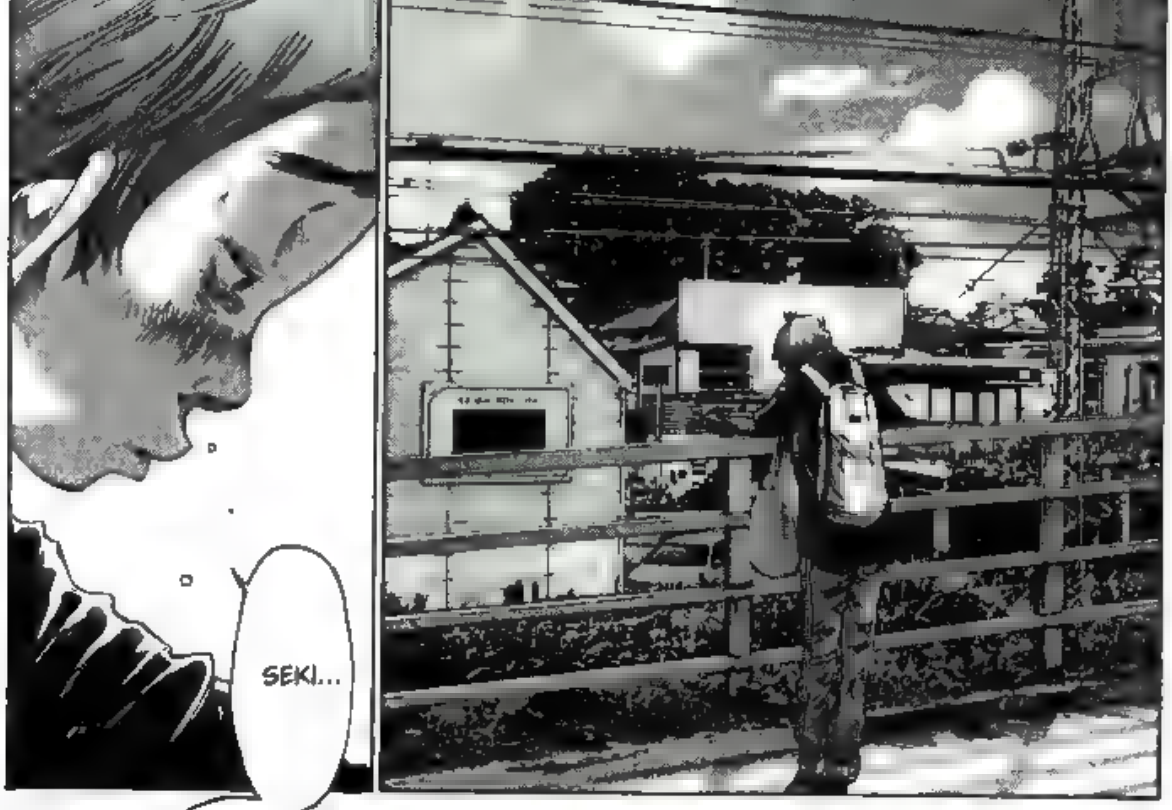
I BELIEVE IN,
THE FREEDOM OF BELIEF BUT ..

PIETY... WELL,
EVEN IF YOU SMILE TO YOUR-SELF. .
IT'S NOT AN ACTUAL GOAL FOR LIVING BUT JUST A MEANS ISN'T IT?
. BEING ALL ALONE IS JUST TOO LONELY


HE WAS A REAL GOOD MAN...
IF HE JUST TALKED TO ME MORE,
WE COULD HAVE BEEN GOOD DRINKING BUDDIES...

I-I'M S-S-SORRY SIR!
I'M GOING HOME!


IT'S ALRIGHT.
IF I WEREN'T WEARING A DIAPER MYSELF TOO, I'D BE MAKING ANOTHER PUDDLE NEXT TO YOU TOO.


SEKI...

YOU DUMMY....

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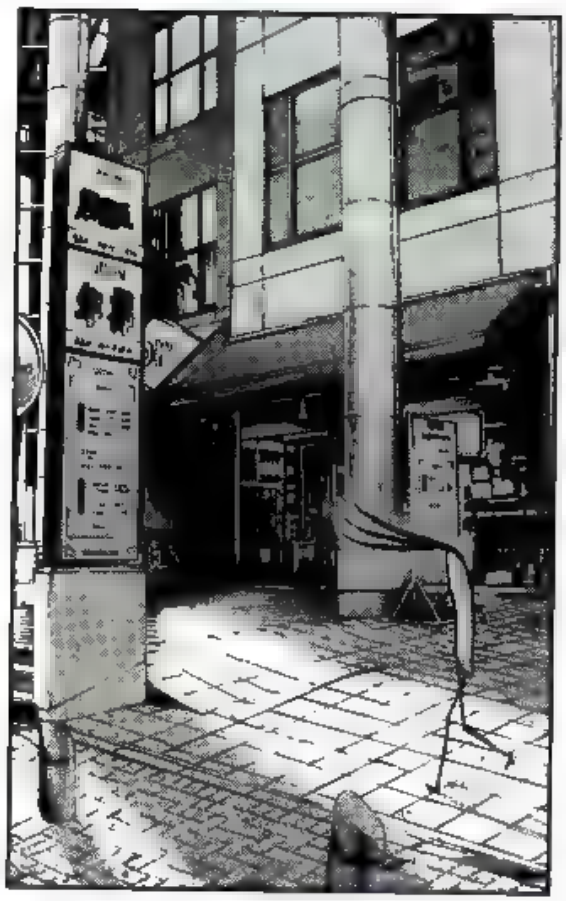
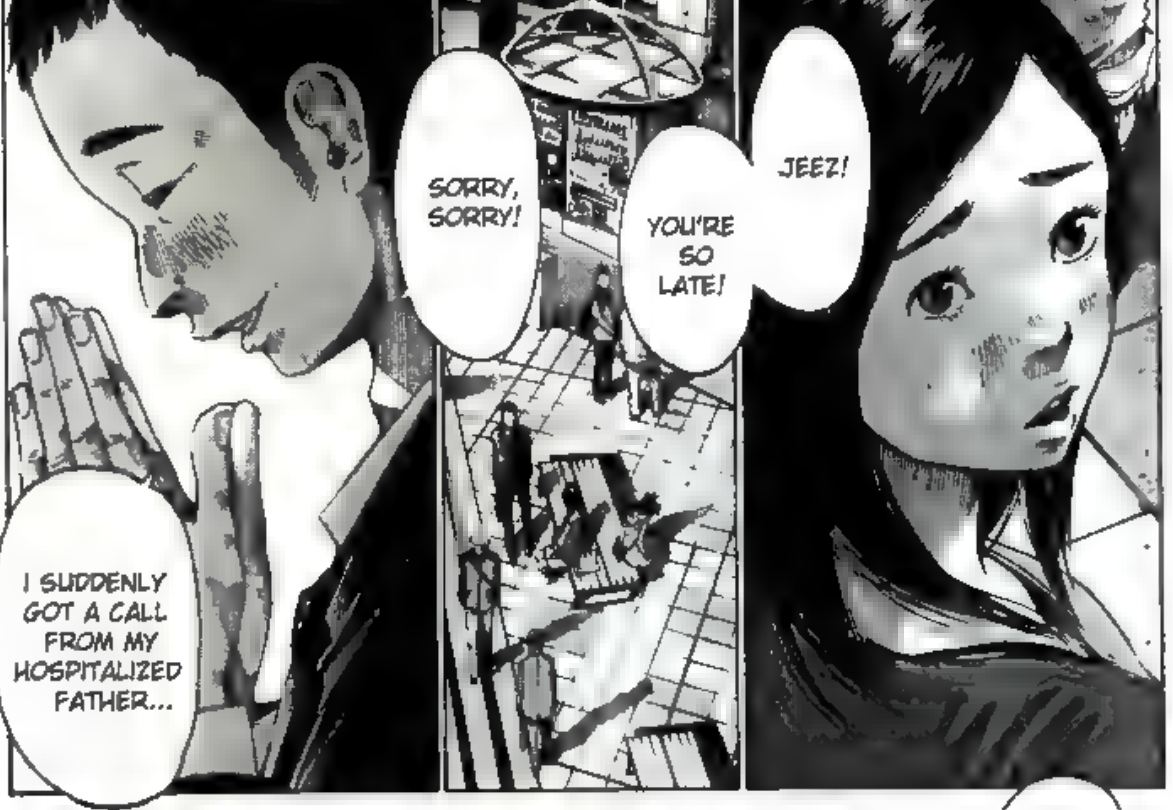
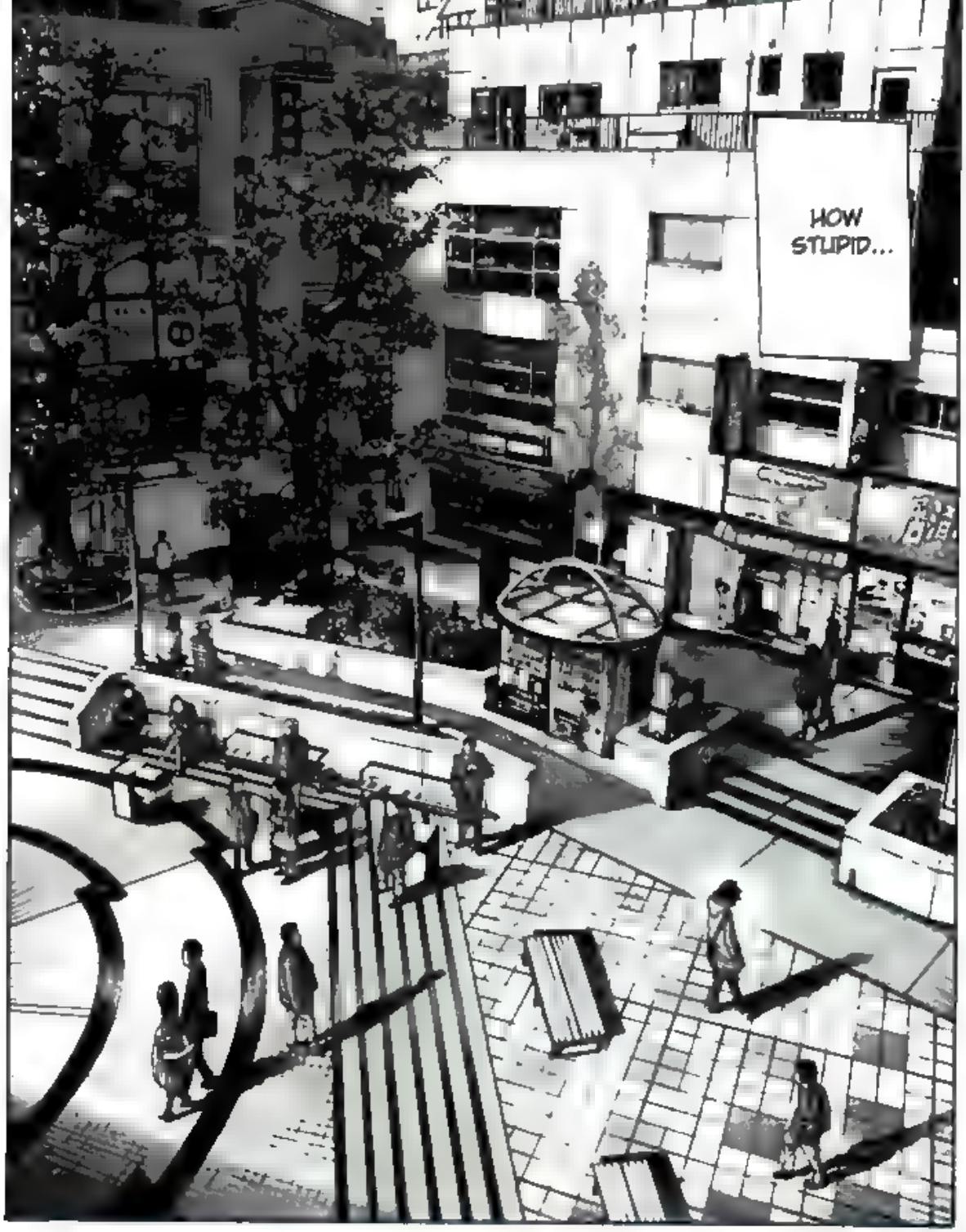



I SUDDENLY GOT A CALL FROM MY HOSPITALIZED FATHER...
SORRY, SORRY!
YOU'RE SO LATE!
JEEZ!

AHAHA, YOU TOLD HIM.
SO I TOLD HIM THAT HE SHOULD STOP BEING STUPID AND WORRY FOR HIS OWN HEALTH A BIT MORE
HE TOLD ME HE COULDN'T SLEEP WHEN HE THINKS OF SOON BEING ABLE TO SEE HIS GRAND-CHILD.

IT'S A MIRACLE.
. .BUT I'M REALLY GLAD YOUR FATHER'S RECOVERING.


HOW STUPID...

YOU CAN DO ANY-THING!!
SHIMI...

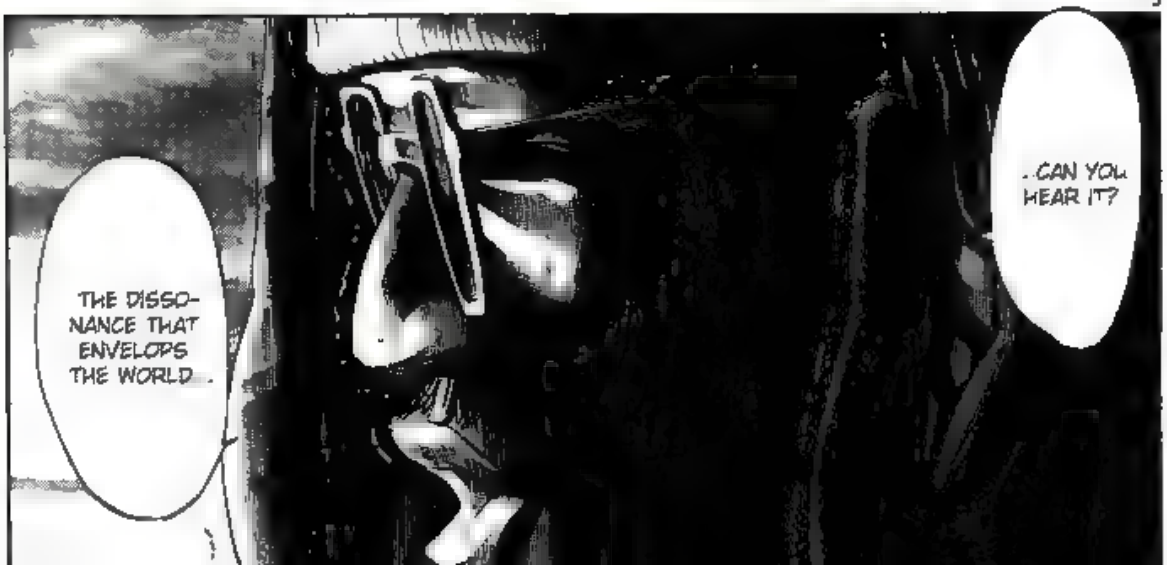
YOU'RE A LIAR, GOD OF POOP...
I...
CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF...

...YOU KNOW,
SEKI TOLD ME THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GOD.
I GUESS,
MAYBE EVEN YOU REALLY DON'T EXIST, HUH?

HE EXISTS.
SOME-WHERE FOR SURE!!
WHAT DO YOU SEE RIGHT NOW WITH YOUR EYES?
FOR ME.
I CAN SEE THE STARS OF THE PEGASUS CON-STELLATION!!
HOWEVER, BEING ABLE TO SEE HIM WITH YOUR EYES IS A DIFFICULT THING..
WHICH IS WHY YOU ARE AN AMAZING CHILD!!

.. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU FOR SO LONG.
BUT YOUR SIGN SAYS TOSHIK
PLEASE CALL ME PEGASUS.
THANK YOU!! CALL ME PEGASUS!!

APPLYING THE SUPER-STRING THEORY THAT I'VE RESEARCHED,
I REALIZED THAT THERE IS A MUSICAL SCALE TO EVERY OBJECT AND A TUNE TO ALL THINGS...
WHICH STATES THAT ALL THINGS IN THIS UNIVERSE IS A RESULT OF THE VIBRATIONS OF SUPERSYM-METRIC STRINGS,
. ..IN OTHER WORDS, THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE IS MERELY JUST A CHANGE OF THE MUSICAL SUITES.


. CAN YOU HEAR IT?
THE DISSO-NANCE THAT ENVELOPS THE WORLD . .

A-AH, AH, AHHHH!!
W-WAIT!! WAIT!!!
I AM NOT A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER!

I KNOW OF SOMETHING ONLY YOU CAN DO!!

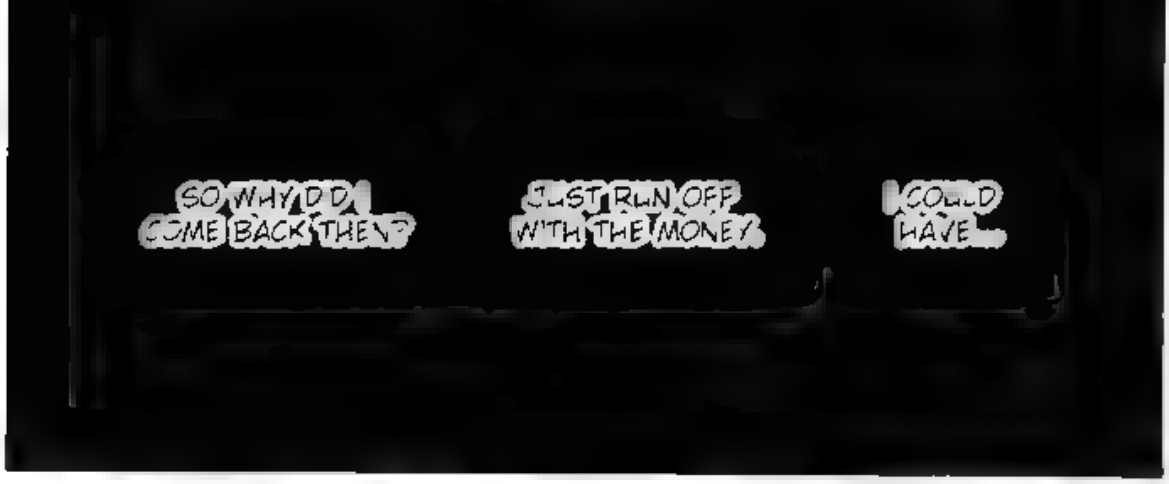
I BECAME ABLE TO HEAR THE DISSONANCE IN A DREAM ON THAT DAY...
... ALRIGHT?
AND AFTER WRITING THAT MUSIC OUT AND ANALYZING IT, I'VE BECOME ABLE TO TOUCH THE FUTURE...
WE ARE THE CHOSEN ONES...

IF LEFT THE WAY IT IS, 5 YEARS FROM NOW ON JULY 7TH...
THE EARTH WILL PERISH!

I'VE BEGUN GATHERING COMRADES...
AND I NEED YOUR STRENGTH.

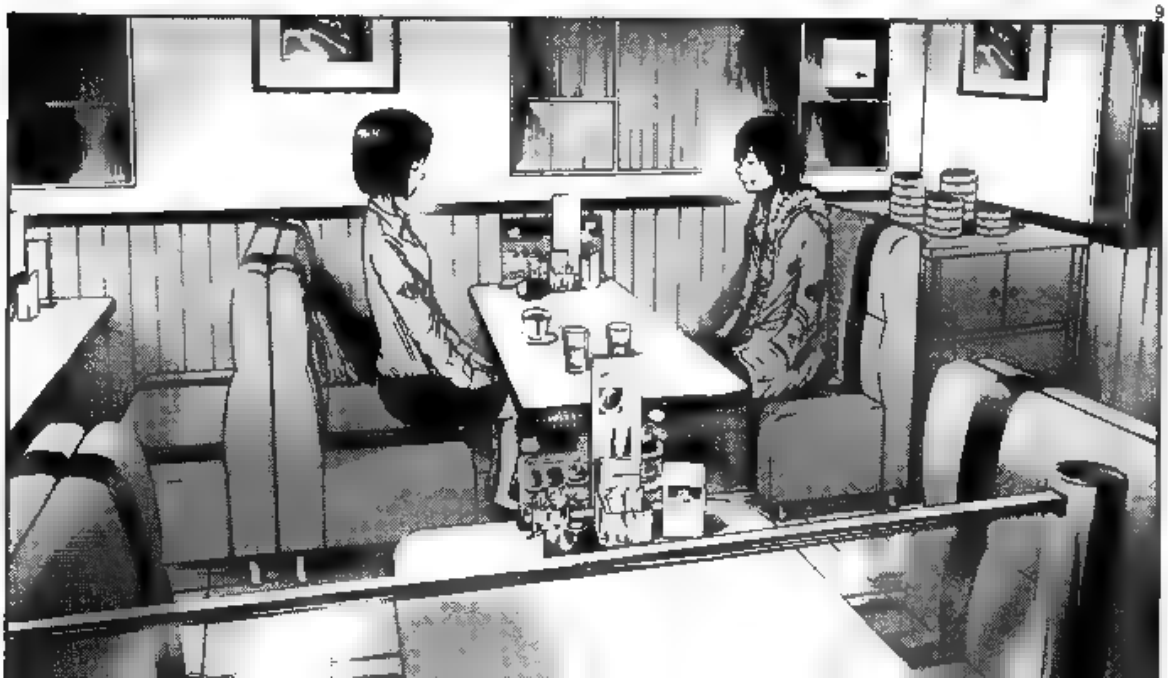
WON'T YOU COME WITH ME...
YOU AND MY VIBRATIONS SYNCHRONIZE UP TO 5 TIMES BETTER THAN OTHER PEOPLE..!!!
FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE AND PEACE...

GOOD...
VIBRA-
TIONS!!
THE UNIVERSE
IS CRYING...!!
TOSHIKI

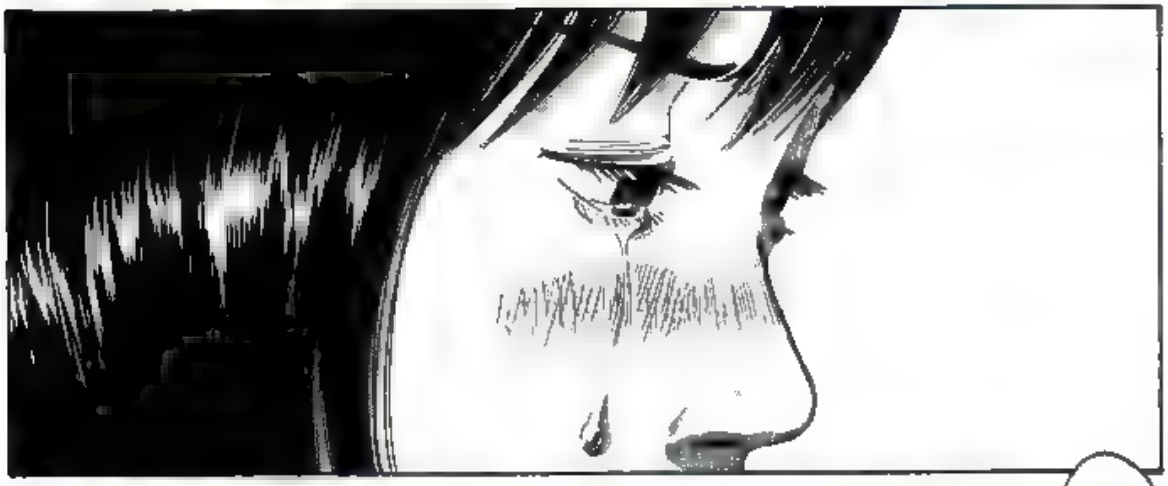

SO WHY DID THEY COME BACK THEN?
JUST RUN OFF WITH THE MONEY.
I COULD HAVE...

IT'S JUST SOME WOMAN WHO'S GOING TO OFF HERSELF SOON, RIGHT?

I COULD EVEN LIE AND EXPLOIT HER FOR ALL THE MONEY SHE'S WORTH.

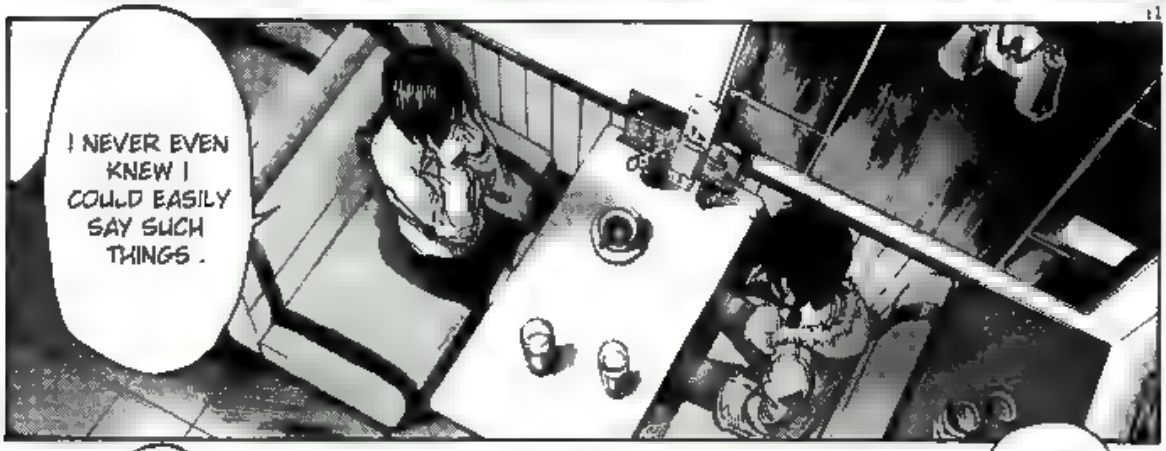


I COULDN'T END UP DOING ANYTHING.
...I APOLOGIZE.



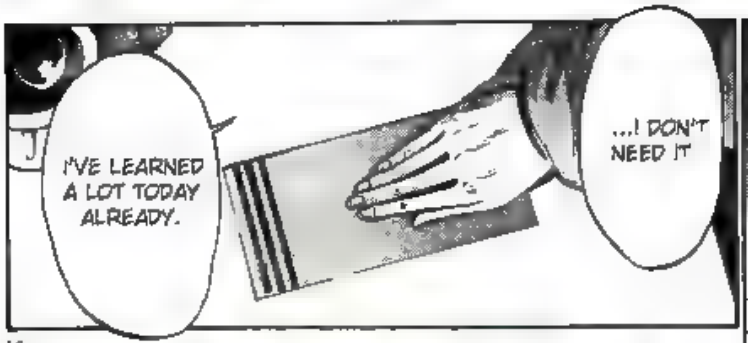
I WAS ACTUALLY WORRIED OVER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE REALLY DIED
A RELIEF...
... THAT'S,

...WHA,
WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR!?
I'M SORRY .
I WAS JUST SO FRIGHT-ENED...


I NEVER EVEN KNEW I COULD EASILY SAY SUCH THINGS .

I SNAPPED BACK TO NORMAL ONCE YOU LEFT THE RESTAU-RANT..
AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALLED, YOU WOULDN'T PICK UP...
TO BE HONEST,
I ONLY WANTED FOR HIM TO KNOW JUST A LITTLE OF MY SUFFERING
.. AH.
MAYBE I TOO, LOST MY HEAD FOR A MOMENT.

MISS,
YOU SHOULD THANK THE GOD FOR MAKING THE WEATHER SO NICE TODAY.
PEOPLE'S FATES CAN CHANGE JUST LIKE THE WEATHER, YOU KNOW?

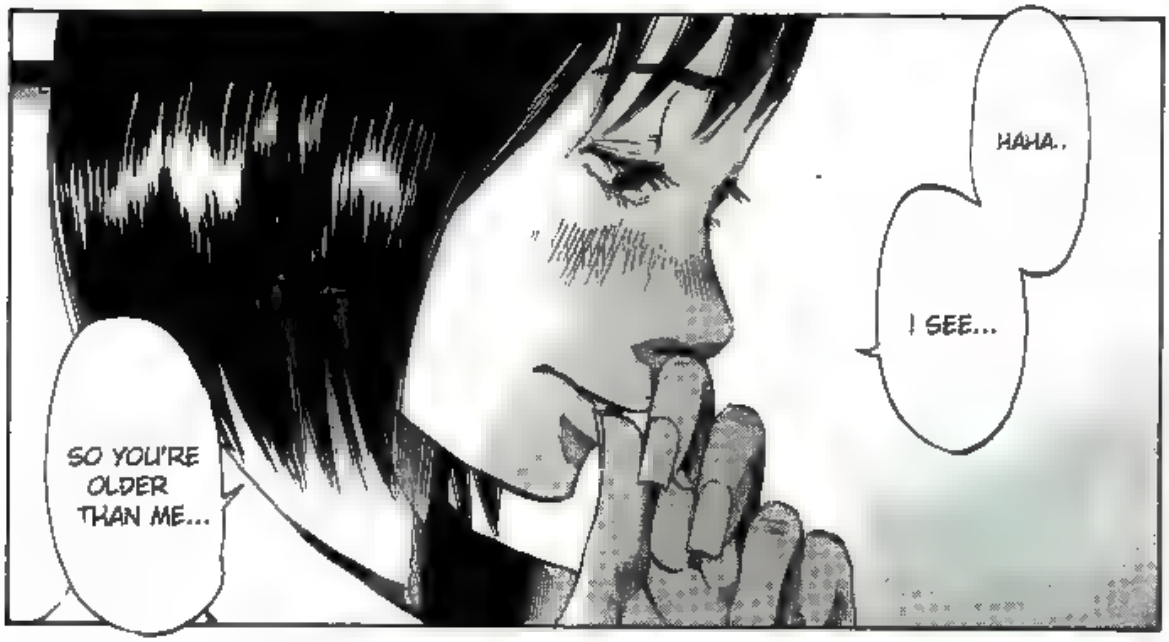

...I DON'T NEED IT
I'VE LEARNED A LOT TODAY ALREADY.

THIS IS MONEY FOR YOUR TROUBLE
SO JUST FORGET ABOUT TODAY, OK?

12

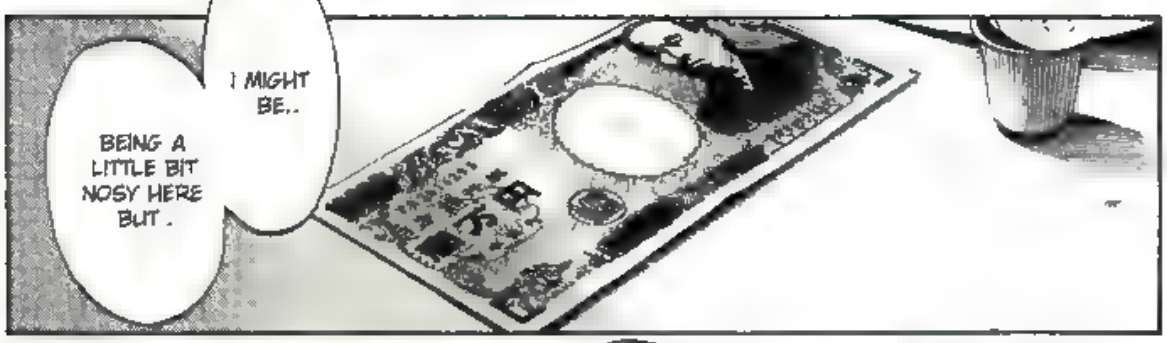
..PEOPLE ARE JUST WEAK CREATURES THAT JUST PUT UP A STRONG FRONT.
. HEY,

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
35.
...THAT'S QUITE A CHILDISH FACE YOU HAVE THEN.
YES, QUITE.

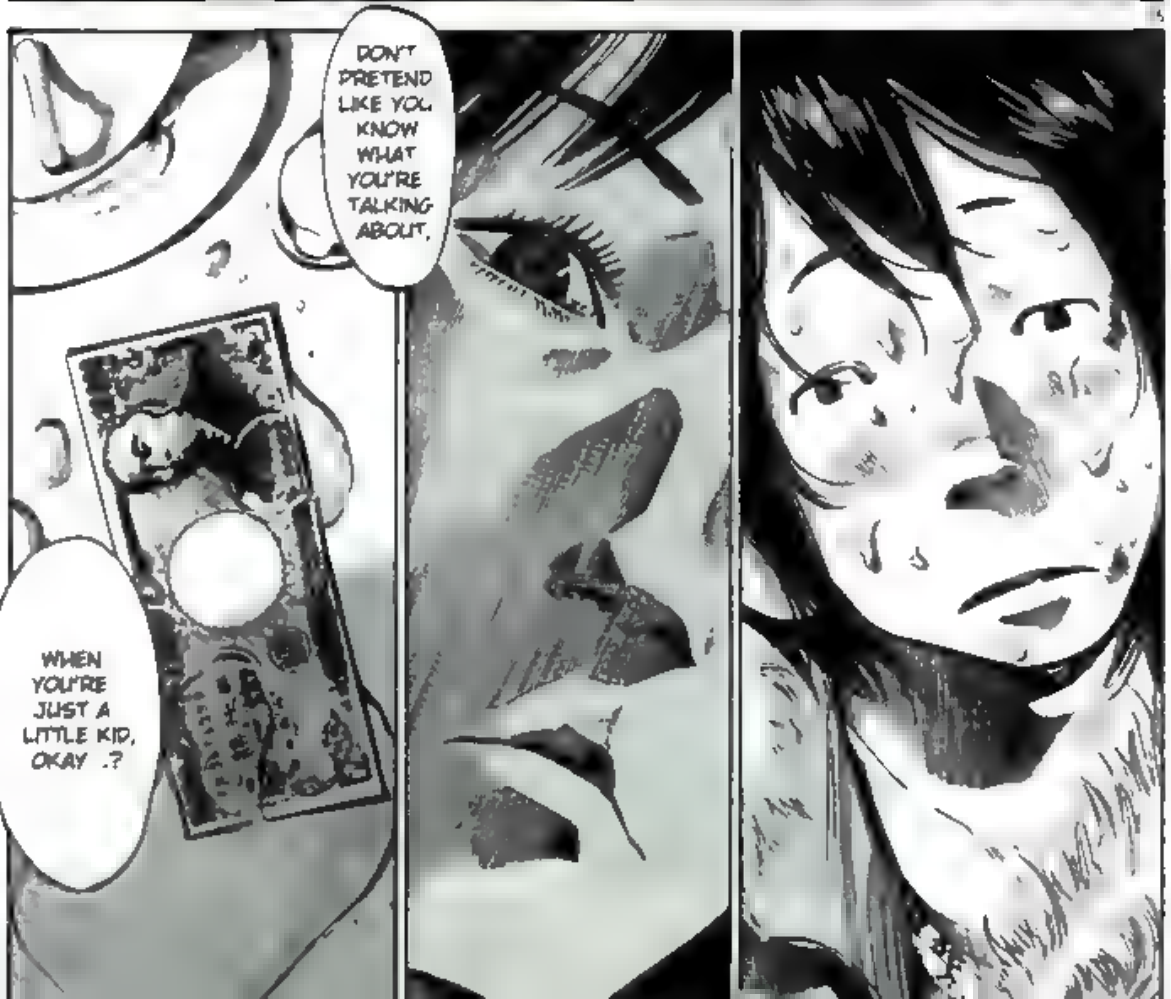

HAHA..
I SEE...
SO YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME...

...I'LL STILL LEAVE YOU SOME MONEY,
SO PLEASE AT LEAST, BUY YOURSELF DINNER WITH IT

...MISS!!
YOU'RE PRETTIER WHEN YOU SMILE!!


I MIGHT BE..
BEING A LITTLE BIT NOSY HERE BUT .

AND HAPPINESS IS RELATIVE FOR EACH PERSON AND THEIR WAY OF LIFE...
YOU'RE ONE TO PUT WORK AHEAD OF FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?
SO IT'S BETTER TO THINK OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS THAN OF SOMEONE'S MISFORTUNE!
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM A LITTLE. .


DON'T PRETEND LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WHEN YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE KID, OKAY .?

THAT PISSES ME OFF THE MOST.
...ACTUALLY, I THINK THE SAME TOO.

OH PLEASE, I DON'T EVEN HAVE THAT TYPE OF COURAGE...
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR HER NUMBER.

I ENDED UP CAVING IN. THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF GUY I AM.
う
とで
....LOOKING AT THAT SKY. THANKS TO THE SKY THAT CAUSED ME TO THINK HOW FREE I WAS...
てる
か。

AFTER ALL, I PROBABLY MADE HIM ANGRY BY DITCHING HIM...
MAYBE SHIMIZU'S NOT COMING

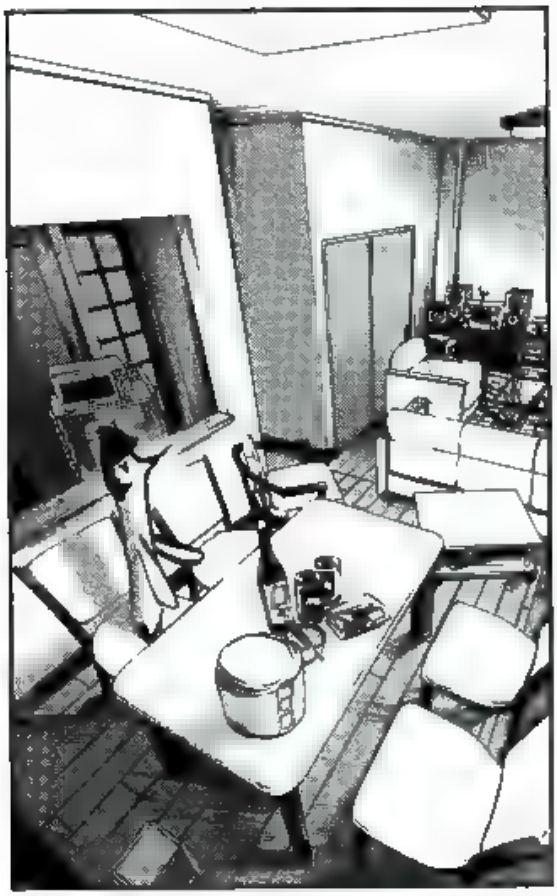
I FEEL A LITTLE BAD GUESS I SHOULD APOLOGIZE
GUESS WHO?

SEKI, ARE YOU CRYING?
SHUT UP...
THOUGHT I MIGHT NEVER RETURN HERE AGAIN.
LET GO, SHIMIZU ...

WHY'D YOU CHANGE PANTS?
DID YOU EVEN CLEAN THAT PLACE AND GET MONEY PROPERLY?

TODAY WAS QUITE INTERESTING.
AH, WHAT-EVER.

AHH...
HUMANS ARE SO STUPID.



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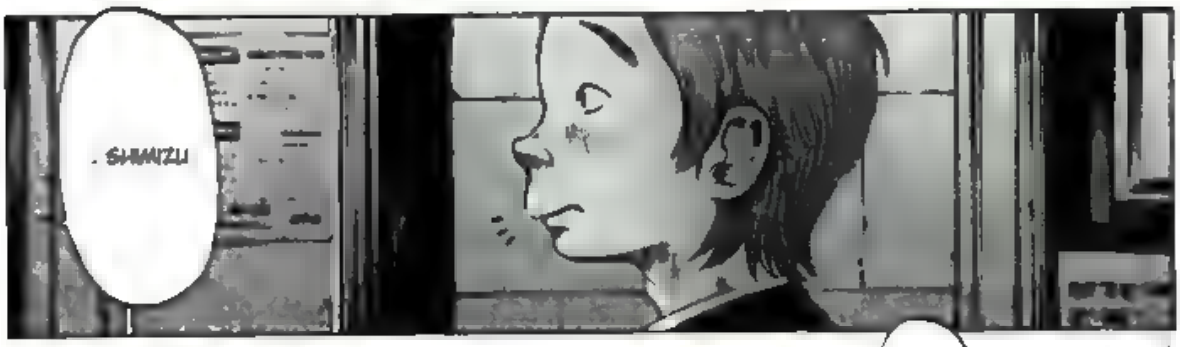
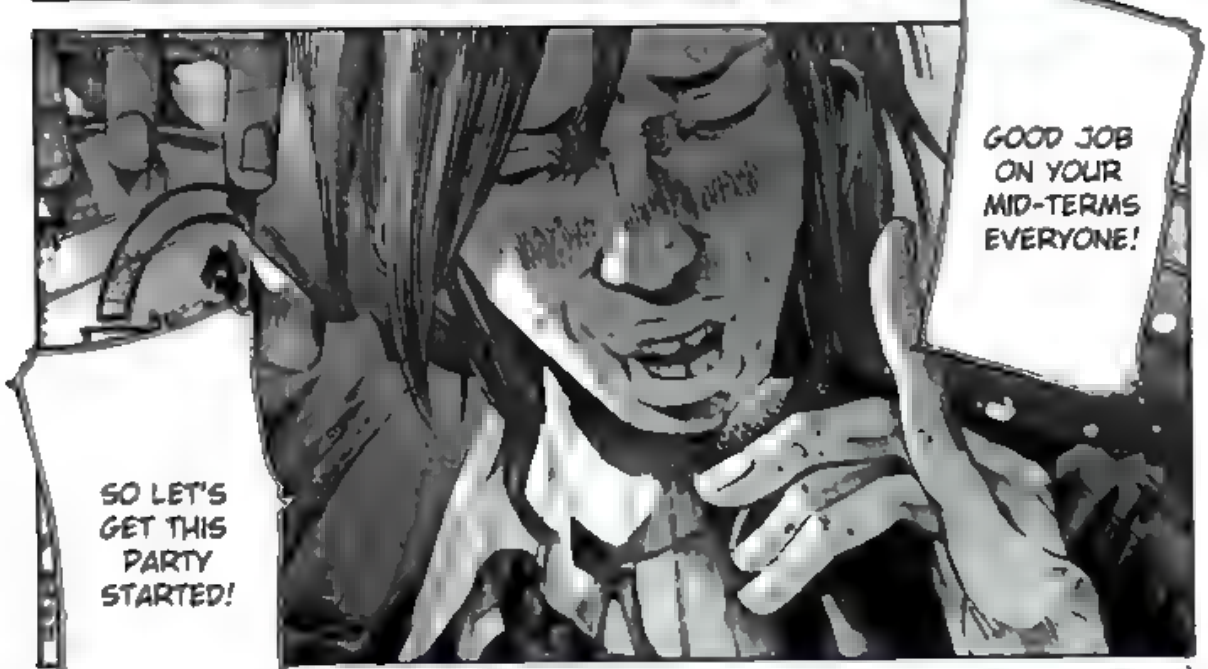
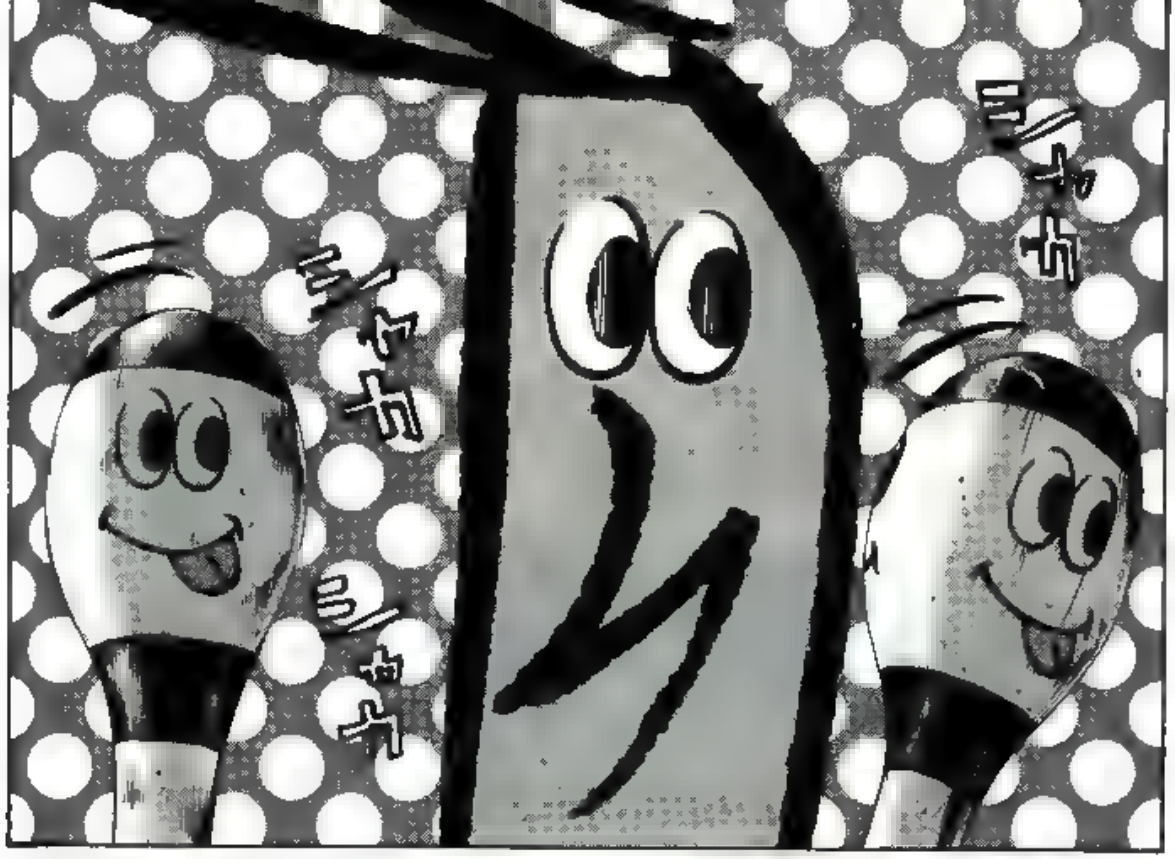

. SHIMIZU

カラオケ
銀河
HOW ABOUT WE EAT, SOME-THING GOOD ONCE IN AWHILE?
I'LL TREAT YOU TO YOUR FAVOURITE

HEY YO!!
PULSATING BEAT WHICH KICKS REASON" RING THE BELL TO THE NEW AGE"
DELIVER THE UNFORGIVING SURGING WAVES OF RHYME!!
MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES CRACKING SKULLS! YOUR MOTHER'S JUST A HER-MAPHRODITE!
MY BIG MONSTER FEEDING YOUR PASSION AND LOVE!!
THE SHAKING SENSATION! TAKE MY SYN-COPATION!
THE OVERFLOW-ING LOVE'S REVOLUTION!! URINATING WITH YOUR HOWLS!!

I HEARD SHE DID IT WITH THE MANAGER AT HER PART TIME JOB.
THAT MUMURA BRAGGED BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL HOW SHE DID IT WITH SOME 30 YEAR OLD GUY
HAHA, HOW STUPID!!
WHAT ABOUT KANIE?
HEY, ISN'T IT TOO RISKY TO BRING ALCOHOL?
IT'S ALRIGHT, IT'S ONLY A LITTLE


GOOD JOB ON YOUR MID-TERMS EVERYONE!
SO LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

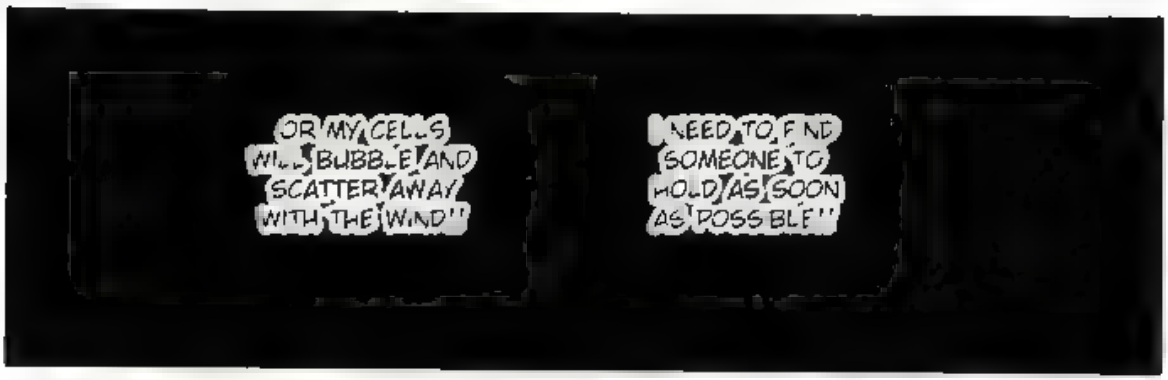


HE WAS NOT USED TO IT AT ALL.

EVERYTHING FELT SO OUT OF PLACE TO HIM.
WEARING LOOSE PANTS GELLING THE HAIR.
ALRIIIGHT!
HEY SOMEONE GO GET SOME ALCOHOL!
AHA, YOU IDIOT!
NUMBER 4 OR 6!

DELINQUENTS!!
OH COME ON, MIMURA! I'M NUMBER 4!
I WON'T DENY IT, I LIKE YOU!
SLUTS!!!
YES, ONE TOM YUM TOFU.
...AH WAIT, MAKE THAT A TOM YUM GOONG!!
GO WITH THE TOM YUM GOONG
WHAT, WHAT, WHAT!
WHY'S IT SO QUIET HERE!?
LET'S KICK IT UP A NOTCH!!
イエ～イ☆

PUNPUN DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS ANYMORE.
Drink

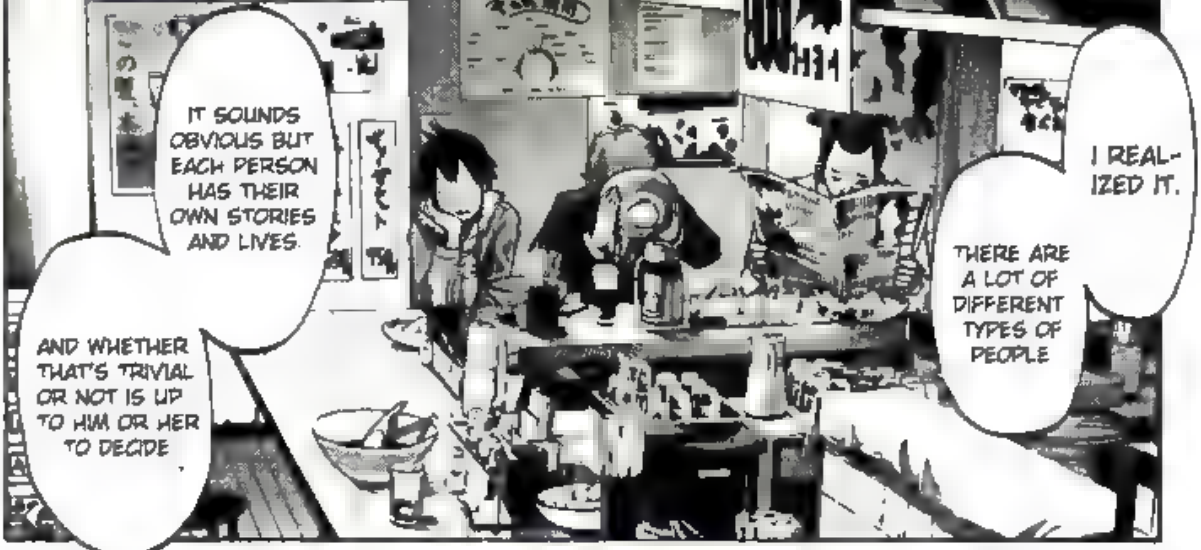

OR MY CELLS WILL BUBBLE AND SCATTER AWAY WITH THE WIND!!
I NEED TO FIND SOMEONE TO HOLD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

I'LL BE SURE TO BE VERY HAPPY PUNPUN THOUGHT
AND IF I HAVE SEX WITH SOMEONE
6
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
ONODERA.

AH, SORRY, YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER MY NAME.
I'M KANIE FROM CLASS C.
DON'T REALLY STAND OUT MUCH...
. I NOTICED THAT YOU DIDN'T DRINK NOR SING AT ALL.
ARE YOU PERHAPS BORED..?

IF SO..
DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE WITH ME?

..AH,
I GUESS THAT COULD BE BUT, YOU KNOW...


I REALIZED IT.
THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE
IT SOUNDS OBVIOUS BUT EACH PERSON HAS THEIR OWN STORIES AND LIVES.
AND WHETHER THAT'S TRIVIAL OR NOT IS UP TO HIM OR HER TO DECIDE.

TO BE HONEST, I ALWAYS BLAMED OTHERS FOR THE BAD THINGS IN MY LIFE BUT..
IT ALL CAME BACK TO ME
..IN THE END, THE RESENTMENT I FELT TOWARDS OTHERS WAS ACTUALLY JUST RESENTMENT TOWARDS MYSELF

I WAS THINKING OF GETTING A NORMAL PART TIME JOB OR SOMETHING..
MAYBE I CAN BE INDEPENDENT AND LIVE ON MY OWN..

..HEY,
DO I SOUND LIKE A GOODY TWO-SHOES OR SOMETHING RIGHT NOW?
THINK SO! BUT THAT'S NOT HOW I FEEL!!
I'M STILL BURNING UP INSIDE!

SHIMIZU,
IF YOU FIND YOURSELF LIKE A GIRLFRIEND,
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO HANG OUT WITH ME ANYMORE?

HAHA, YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE DRUNK!!
YOU DUMB-ASS.
I ONLY HAD COLA.

HEY SHIMIZU,
WHAT KIND OF ADULTS,
DO YOU THINK WE'LL GROW UP TO BE?

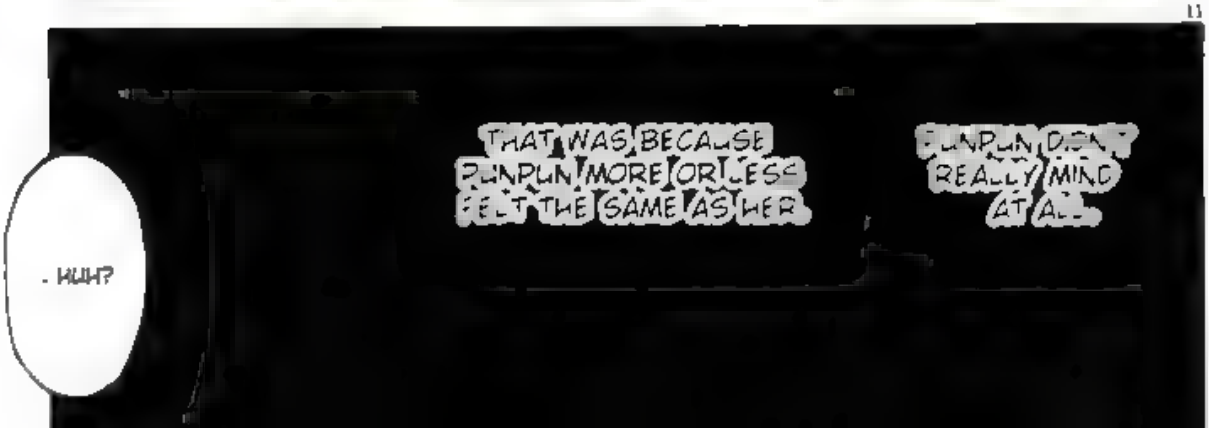
I CAN'T IMAGINE AT ALL...
DON'T YOU THINK LIFE AND FATE IS JUST TOO MUCH OF A FARCE?

...THANKS, ONODERA.
I WAS A BIT NERVOUS TO LEAVE ALONE.

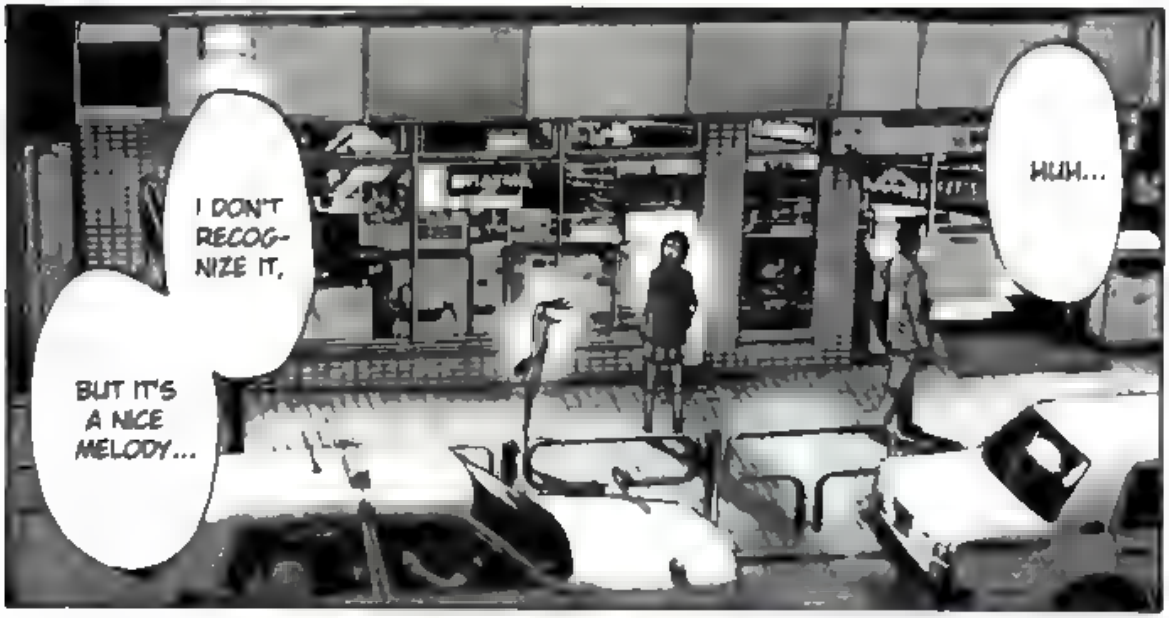
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A REALLY SERIOUS KID BECAUSE YOUR GRADES ARE SO HIGH.
BUT TO SEE YOU SO EASILY HANDLE STUDYING AND PLAYING,
I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS...

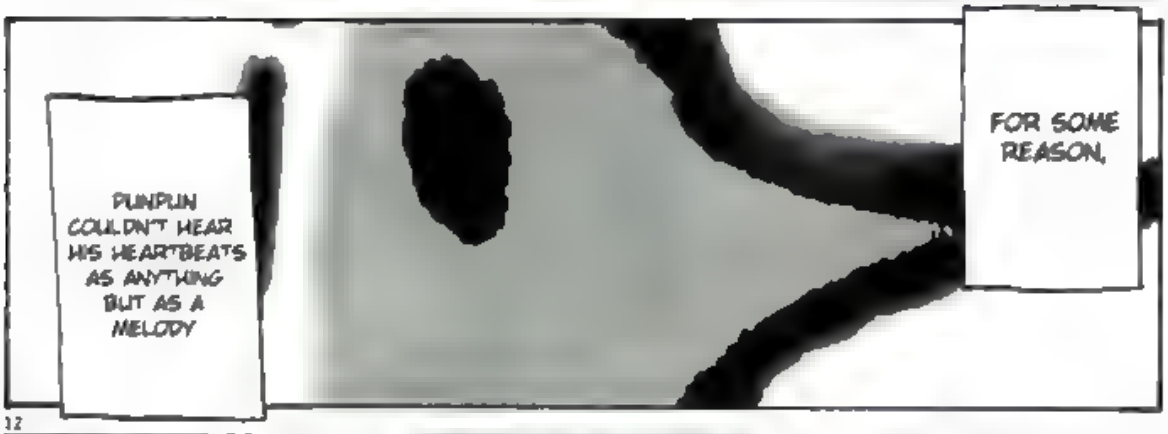
BUT IT WAS AWKWARD IN THAT RAGING PARTY.

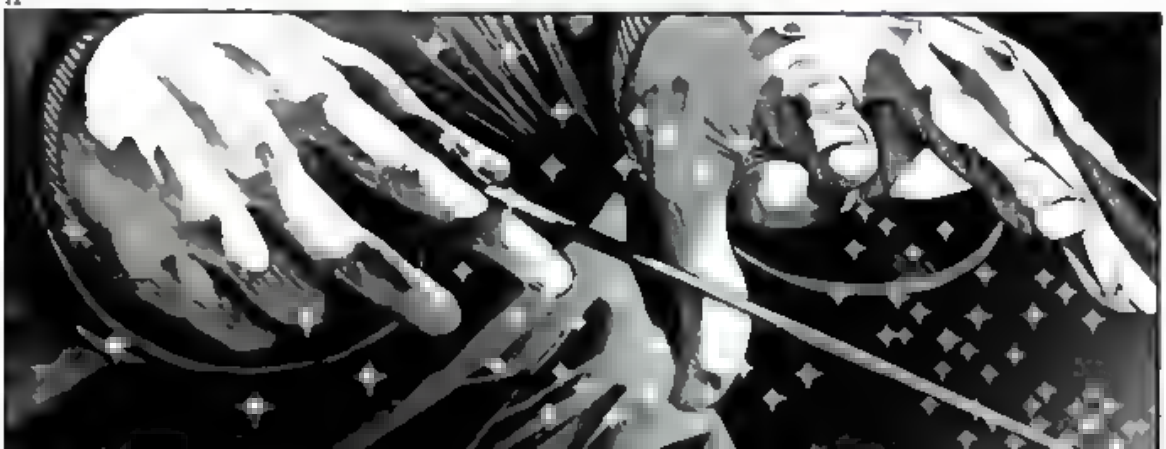
THAT'S JUST,
THAT'S JUST MY INFLEXIBLE STUBBORN SIDE SPEAKING.
THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT ALSO MAKES FUN OF YOU BUT.
WELL,
I MUST BE BORING YOU WITH MY STORY.
AH, SORRY DON'T PAY MIND TO WHAT I SAID.

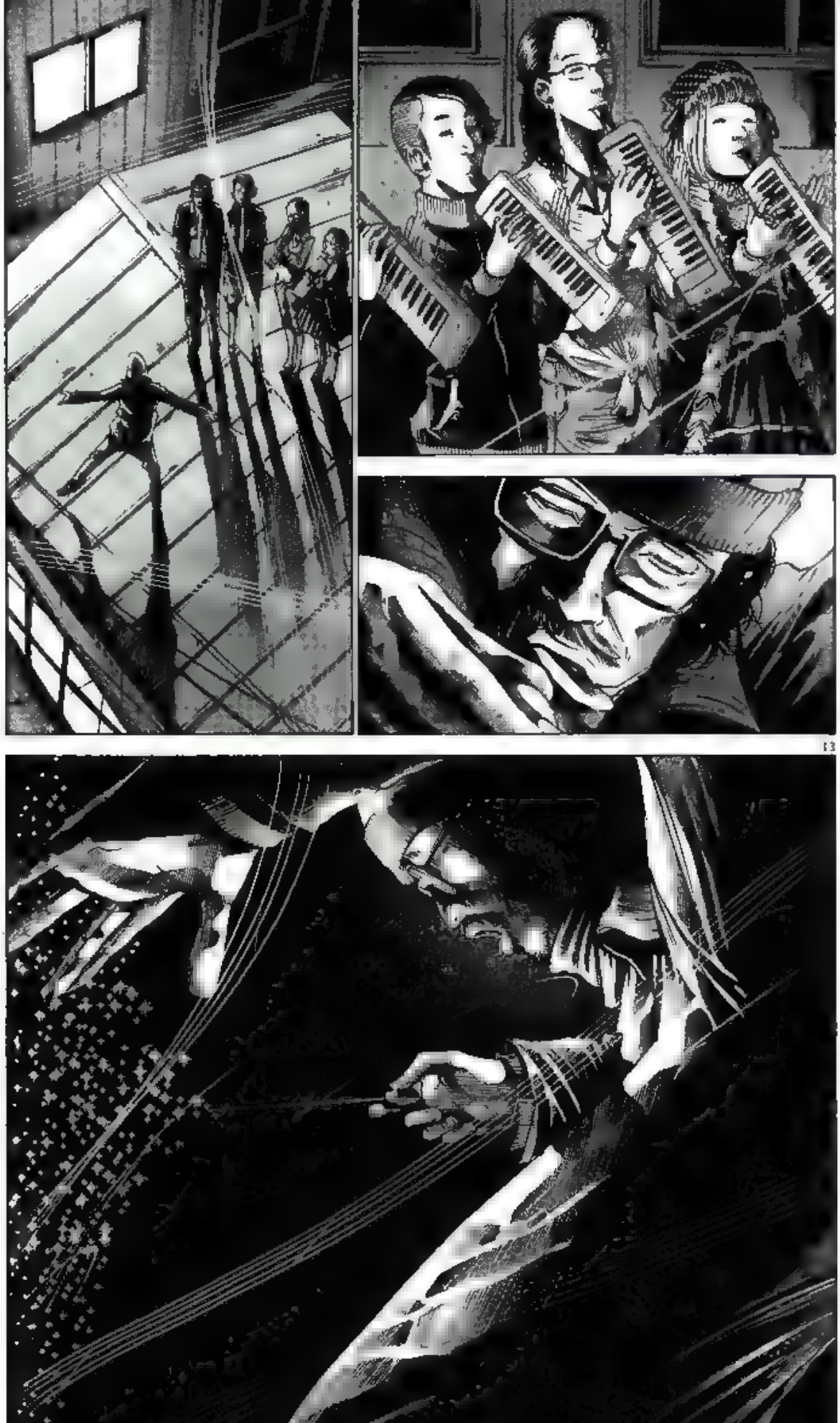

- HUH?
THAT WAS BECAUSE PUNPUN MORE OR LESS FELT THE SAME AS HER
PUNPUN DIDN'T REALLY MIND AT ALL

DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?


HUH...
I DON'T RECOG-NIZE IT,
BUT IT'S A NICE MELODY...


FOR SOME REASON,
PUNPUN COULDN'T HEAR HIS HEARTBEATS AS ANYTHING BUT AS A MELODY





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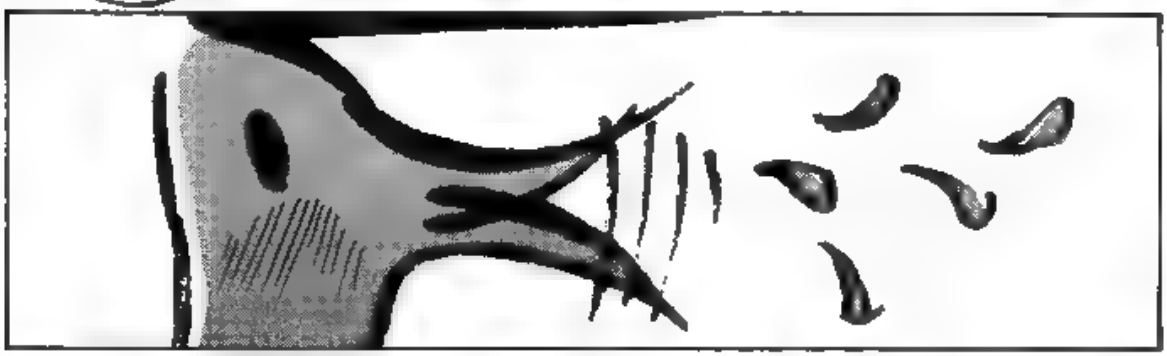
浅野いにお
5
らら
マート
たばこ
酒

HUH?
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING JUST NOW?

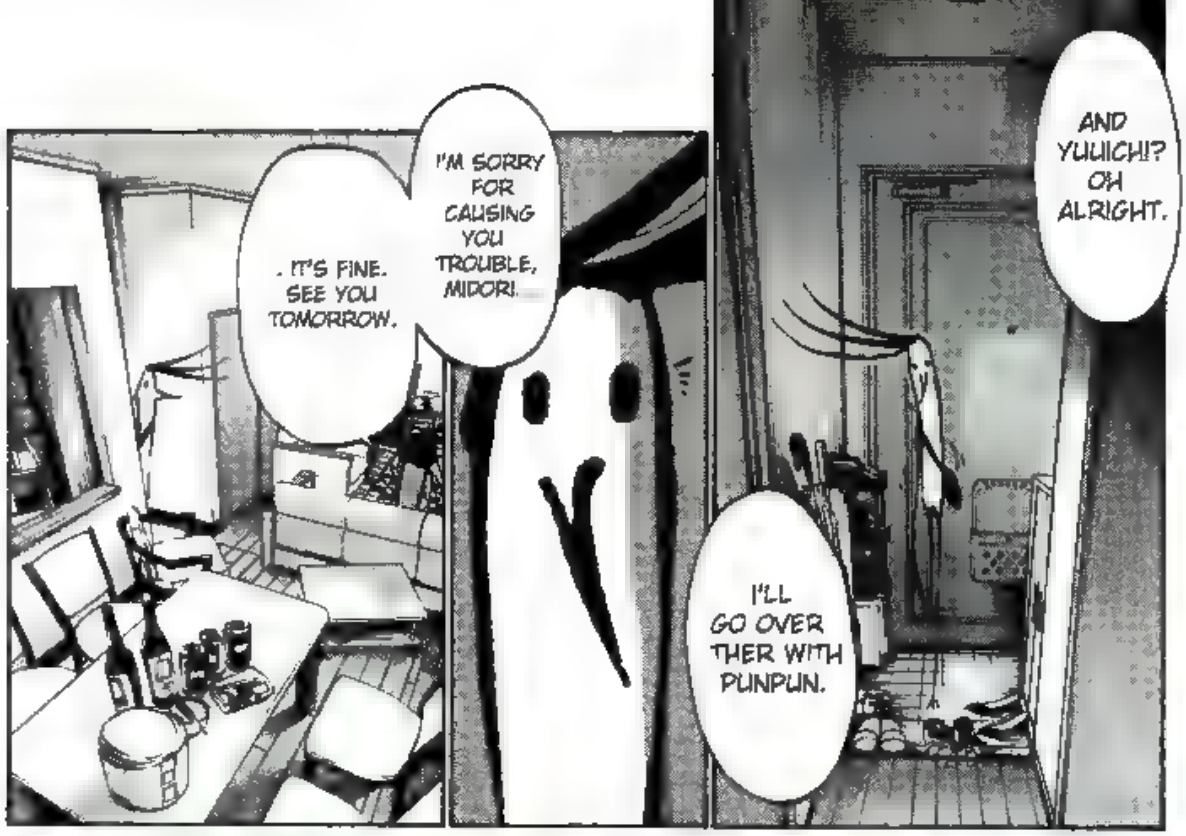


...YEAH,
SURE.
"DO YOU WANT TO GO TO SOMEPLACE FUN WITH ME NEXT WEEKEND?"
ASKED PUNPUN FORCEFULLY.

...LET'S JUST,
TRY TO STAY AS GOOD FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE.
AH WHO KNOWS,
HOW OUR LIVES WILL TURN OUT.

THE HELL'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
GOOD VIBRATIONS!

803
ONODERA
..YES, SEE..
I'LL ASK TO GET OFF FROM WORK EARLY TOMORROW THEN.


I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE, MIDORI.
. IT'S FINE. SEE YOU TOMORROW.
AND YUUICHI? OH ALRIGHT.
I'LL GO OVER THER WITH PUNPUN.

WELCOME BACK, PUNPUN...
..AH,

IT SEEMS THAT GRANDPA PASSED AWAY.

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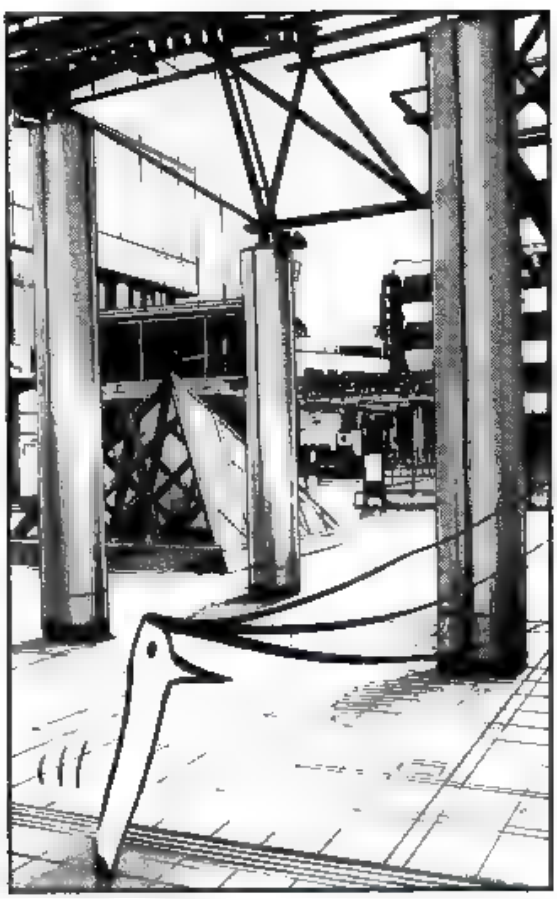
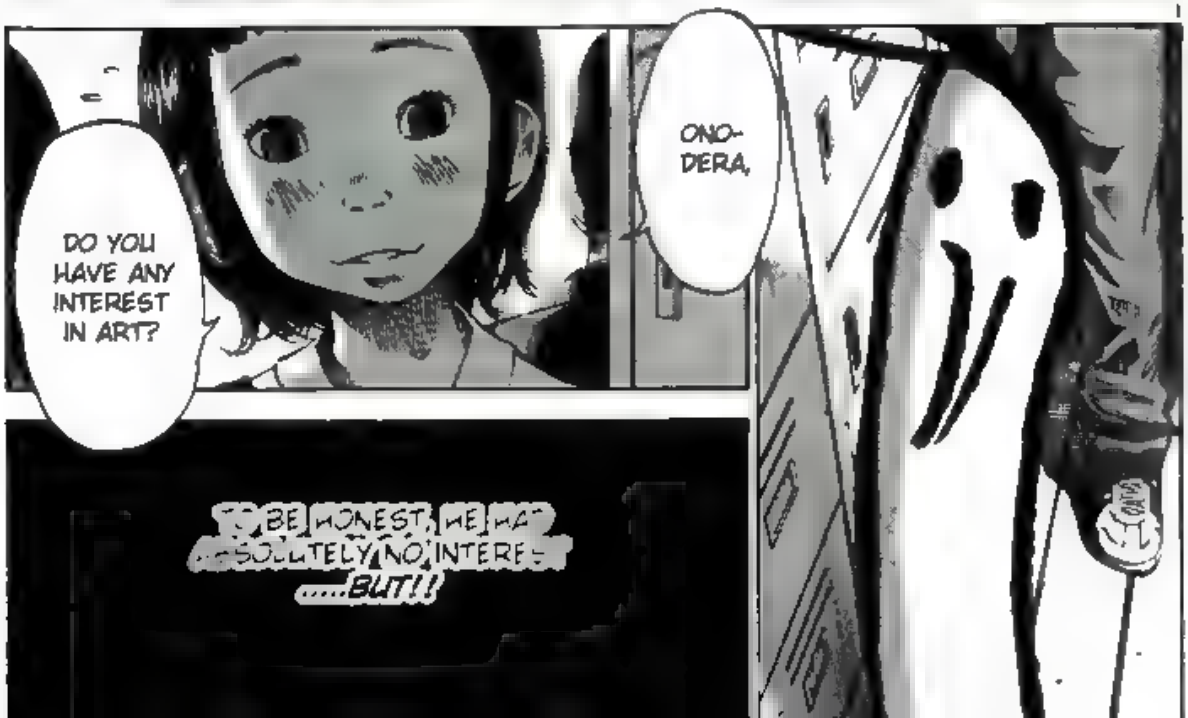
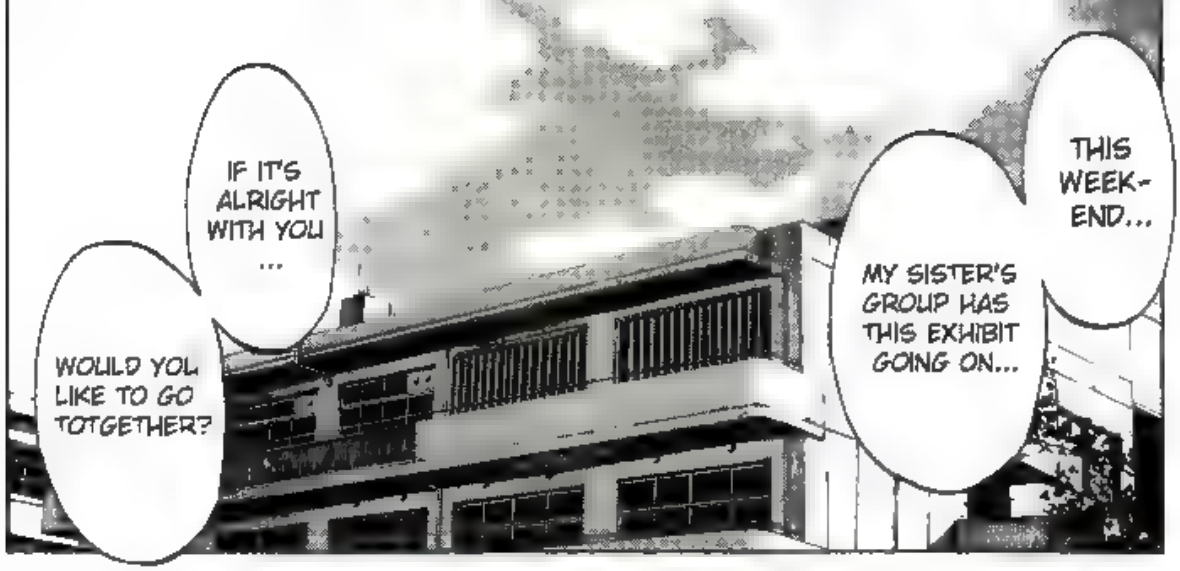
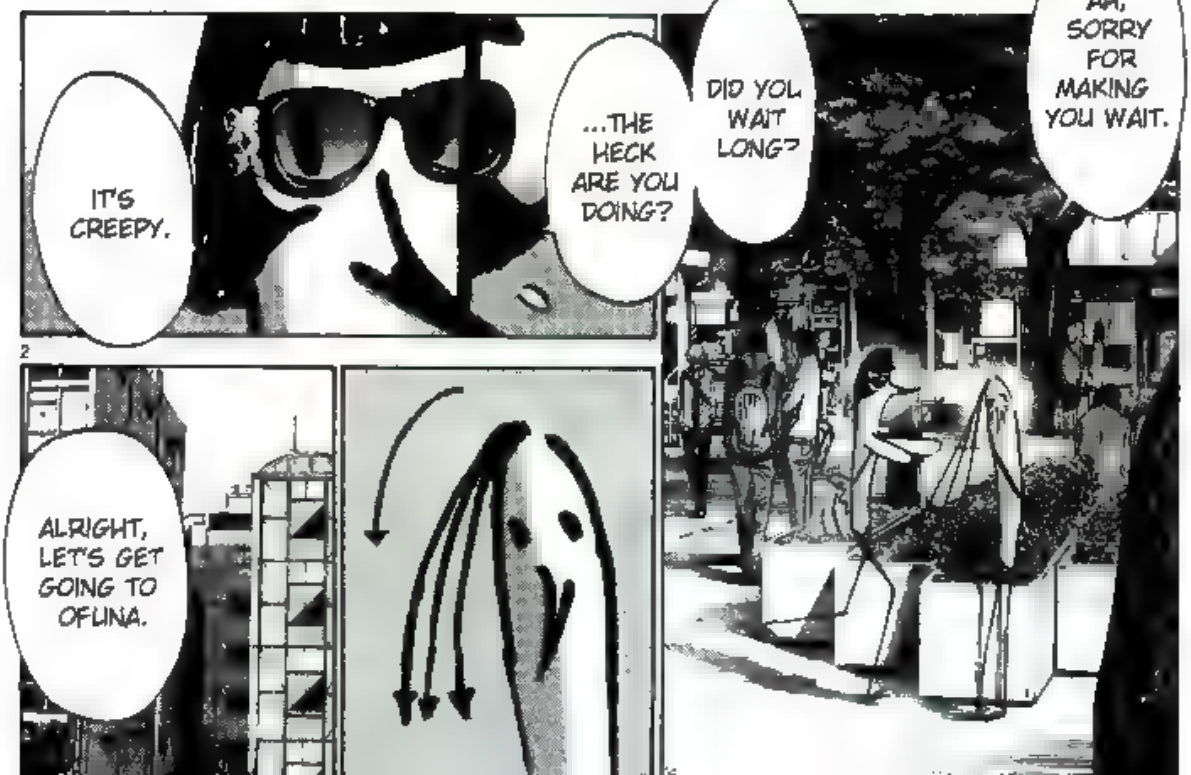


ONODERA!

KANIE, LET'S GET GOING!!
OH THAT'S GOOD. I TRIED LOOKING FOR YOU IN YOUR CLASSROOM.
ARE YOU IN A RUSH RIGHT NOW?
ABOUT YESTER-DAY...


ONO-DERA,
DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN ART?
TO BE HONEST, HE HA
SOLUTELY NO INTERE
.....BUT!!

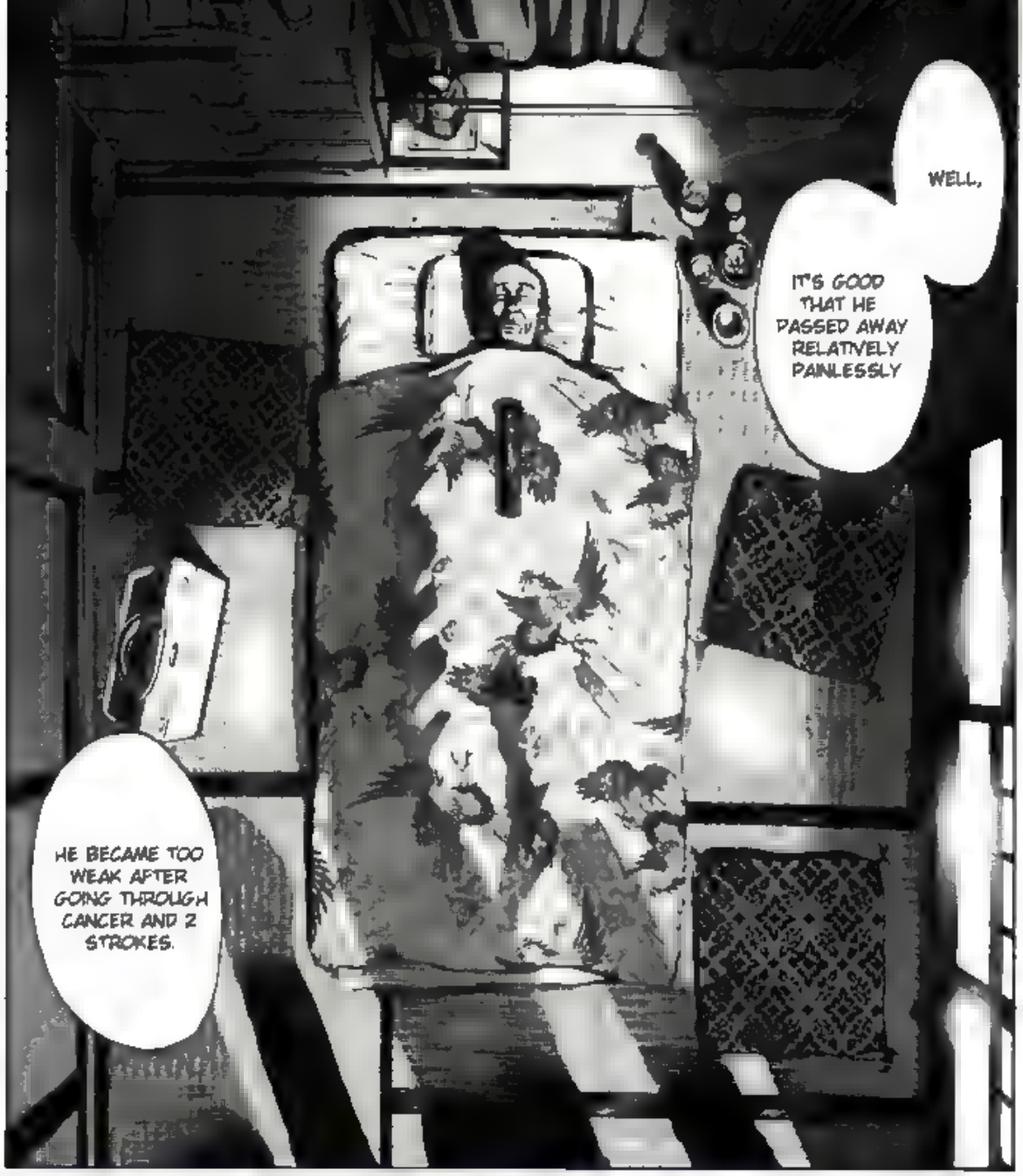

THIS WEEK-END...
MY SISTER'S GROUP HAS THIS EXHIBIT GOING ON...
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU ...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TOTGETHER?


AH, SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
DID YOU WAIT LONG?
...THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S CREEPY.
2
ALRIGHT, LET'S GET GOING TO OFUNA.

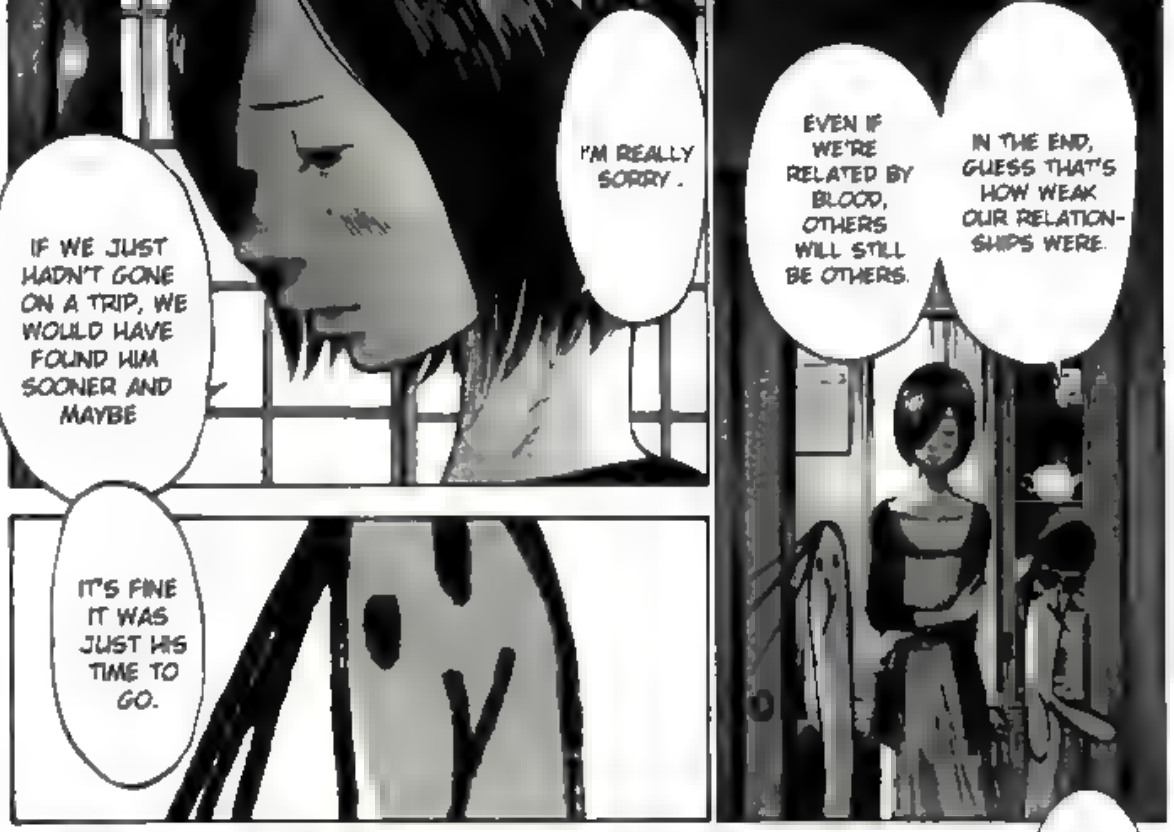
大船駅
OFUNA STATION
(北口)
WELL HE WAS SERIOUS AND NOT A VERY FUN PERSON TO BE WITH. .
DO YOU EVEN STILL REMEMBER YOUR GRANDPA'S FACE?
. HOW LONG HAD IT BEEN SINCE YOU LAST WENT?
THEY SAID IT WAS TOO LATE BY THE TIME HE WAS FOUND COLLAPSED IN THE BATHROOM.
HEY...
CAN YOU AT LEAT GRUNT OR SOMETHING SO I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING?

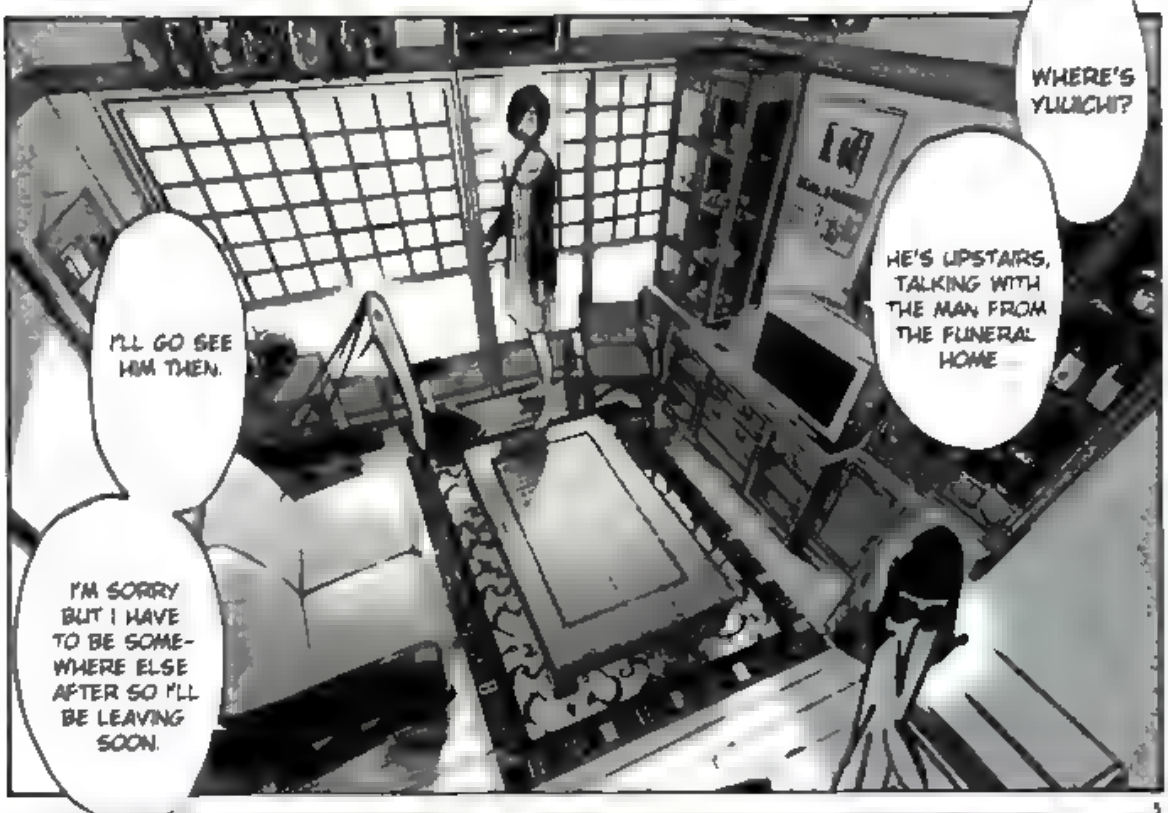
READS. ONODERA

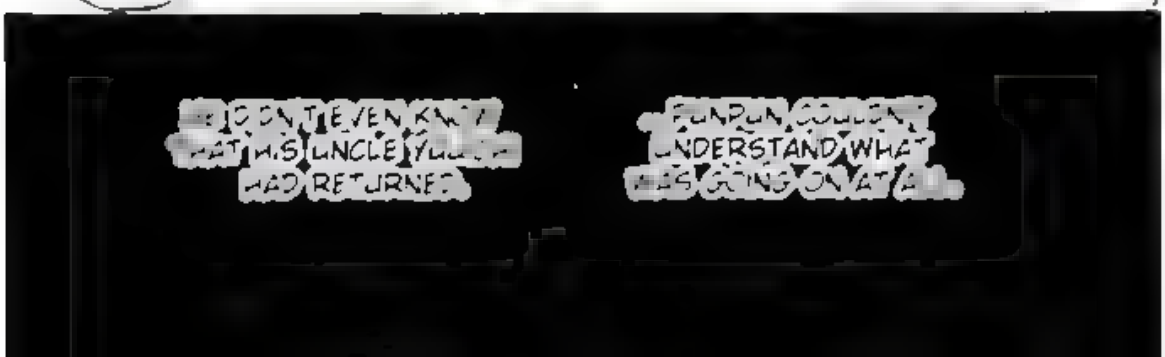
3


WELL,
IT'S GOOD THAT HE PASSED AWAY RELATIVELY PAINLESSLY
HE BECAME TOO WEAK AFTER GOING THROUGH CANCER AND 2 STROKES.

AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE TAKEN CARE BY HIS CHILDREN EITHER.
I DON'T THINK HE WAS NECESSARILY JUST TRYING TO ACT TOUGH OR ANYTHING.


I'M REALLY SORRY.
IF WE JUST HADN'T GONE ON A TRIP, WE WOULD HAVE FOUND HIM SOONER AND MAYBE
IT'S FINE IT WAS JUST HIS TIME TO GO.
EVEN IF WE'RE RELATED BY BLOOD, OTHERS WILL STILL BE OTHERS.
IN THE END, GUESS THAT'S HOW WEAK OUR RELATION-SHIPS WERE.

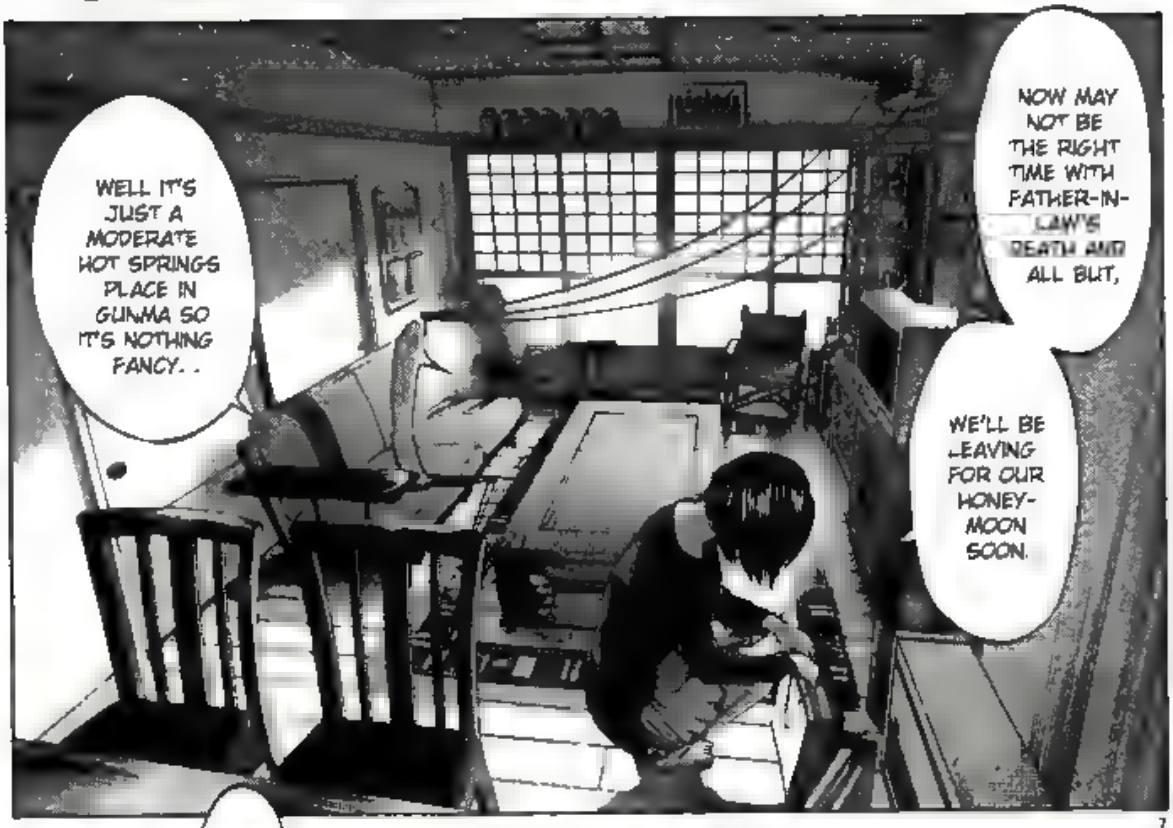

WHERE'S YUUICHI?
HE'S UPSTAIRS, TALKING WITH THE MAN FROM THE FUNERAL HOME.
I'LL GO SEE HIM THEN.
I'M SORRY BUT I HAVE TO BE SOME-WHERE ELSE AFTER SO I'LL BE LEAVING SOON.


I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIS UNCLE YUUICHI HAD RETURNED
FUMIYA COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON AT A

AND JUST WHAT WAS MIDORI, WHO HE THOUGHT HE'D NEVER SEE AGAIN, DOING IN THIS HOUSE?

PUNPUN WAS CONFUSED.

...AH.
THAT'S RIGHT
I HAVE A SOUVENIR FOR YOU, PUNPUN.


NOW MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT TIME WITH FATHER-IN-LAW'S DEATH AND ALL BUT,
WE'LL BE LEAVING FOR OUR HONEY-MOON SOON.
WELL IT'S JUST A MODERATE HOT SPRINGS PLACE IN GUNMA SO IT'S NOTHING FANCY. .

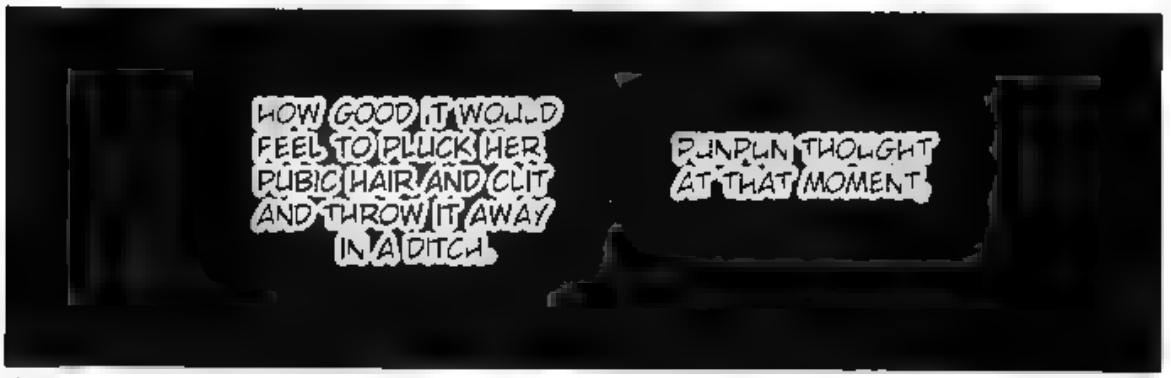
..HUH?
YOU DIDN'T HEAR FROM YOUR MOM?

...I,
HAD MY NAME REGISTERED TO YUUICHI'S FAMILY.

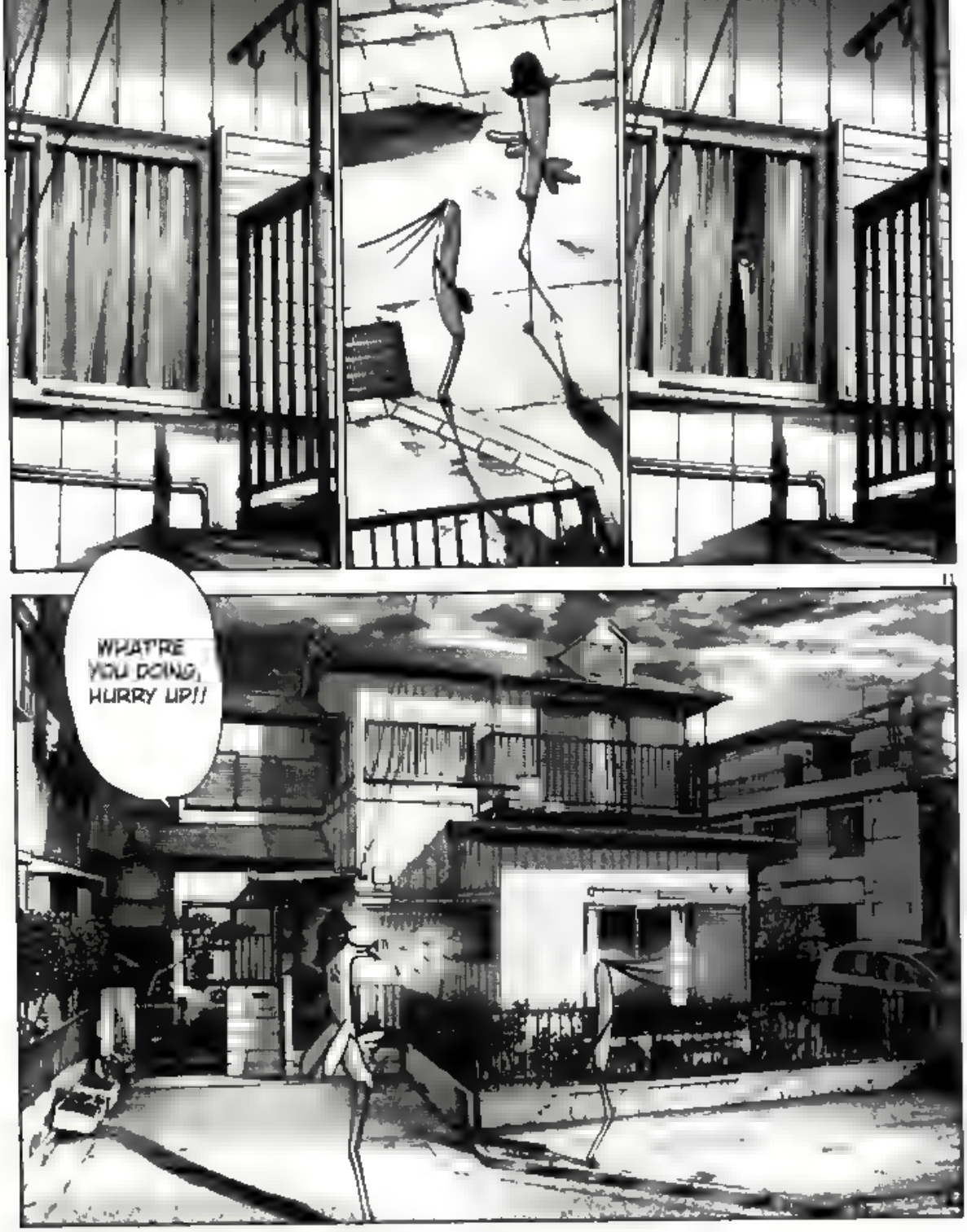
WHAT,
YOU REALLY HADN'T HEARD A THING?

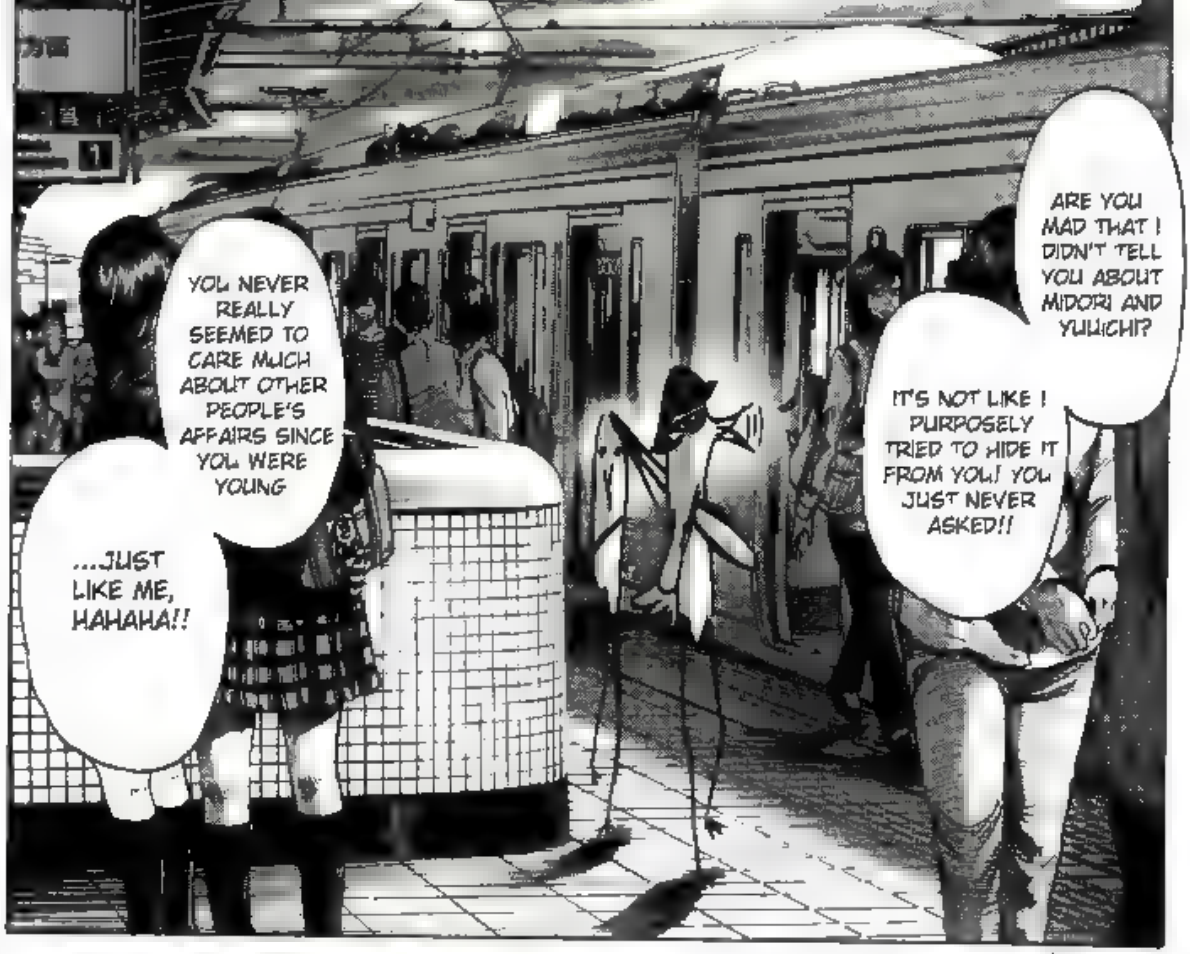
THE DAY AFTER ON THAT DAY ..
WELL, BY THAT DAY I MEAN. .
THAT DAY WHEN YOU LAST CAME OVER TO MY CAFE. .
YUUICHI CAME BACK...

HAHA.. NOT
THAT WAS JUST A JOKE...
YUUICHI,
HE'S GOING TO A CLINIC RIGHT NOW TO TREAT HIS MINOR DEPRESSION
...I'VE DECIDED
TO ONE DAY KILL HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS.
RIGHT NOW,
I'M REALLY HAPPY.
SO...
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?

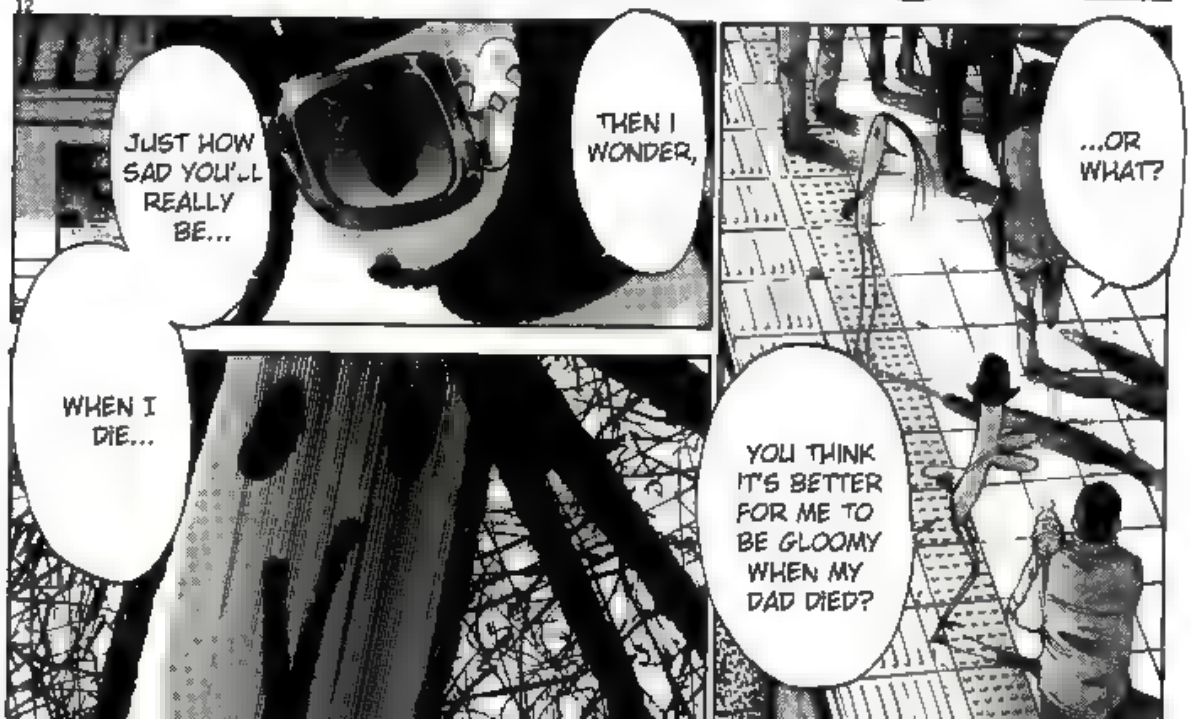

HOW GOOD IT WOULD FEEL TO PLUCK HER PUBIC HAIR AND CLIT AND THROW IT AWAY IN A DITCH
PUNPUN THOUGHT AT THAT MOMENT

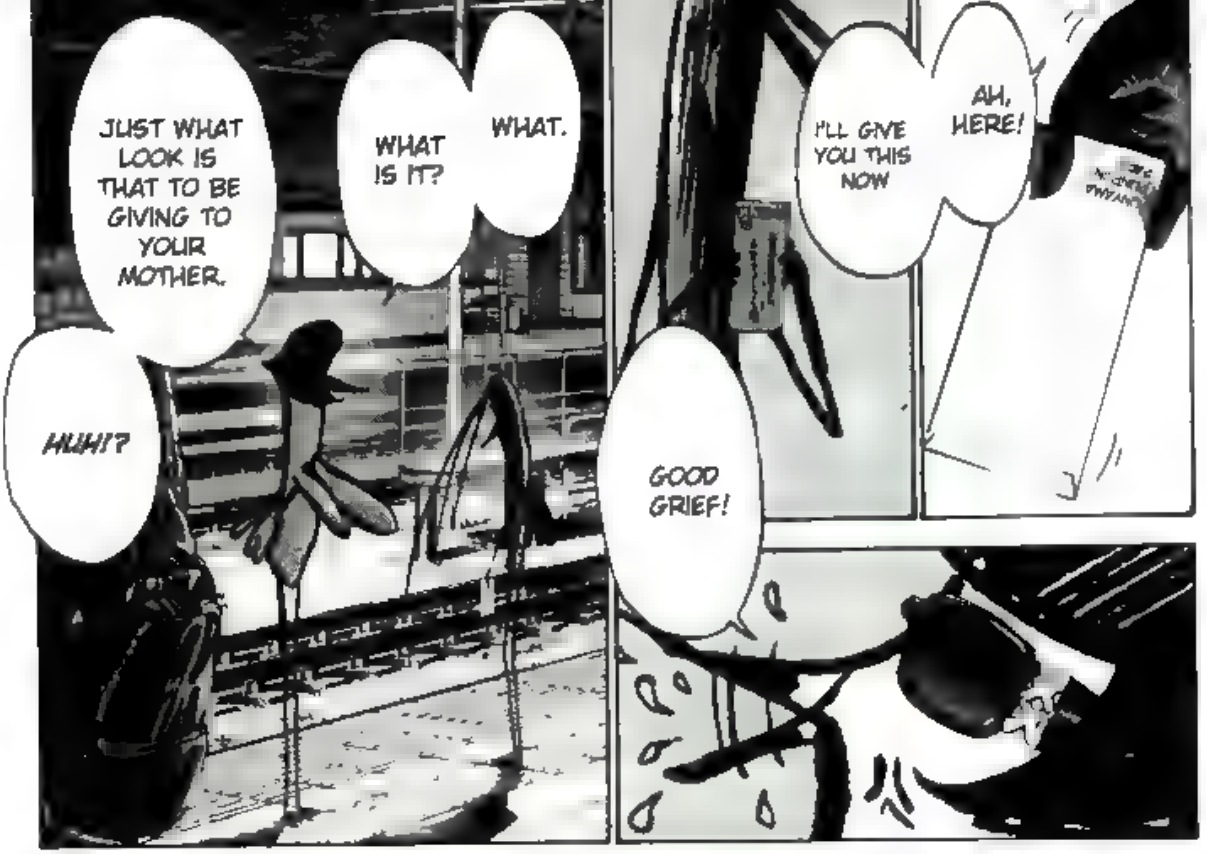
MMM.
BUT THE ONLY THING HE COULD DO WAS TO SAY CONGRATU-LATIONS
THANKS.


WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HURRY UP!!
PUNPUN,
WHY DO YOU SEEM SO IRRITATED RIGHT NOW?
IT'S GIVING ME A BAD MOOD, YOU KNOW?


ARE YOU MAD THAT I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT MIDORI AND YUUICHI?
IT'S NOT LIKE I PURPOSELY TRIED TO HIDE IT FROM YOU! YOU JUST NEVER ASKED!!
YOU NEVER REALLY SEEMED TO CARE MUCH ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG
...JUST LIKE ME, HAHAHA!!

THAT WAS A JOKE, LAUGH.
GOD YOU'RE SO GLOOMY!


THEN I WONDER,
JUST HOW SAD YOU'LL REALLY BE...
WHEN I DIE...
...OR WHAT?
YOU THINK IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO BE GLOOMY WHEN MY DAD DIED?

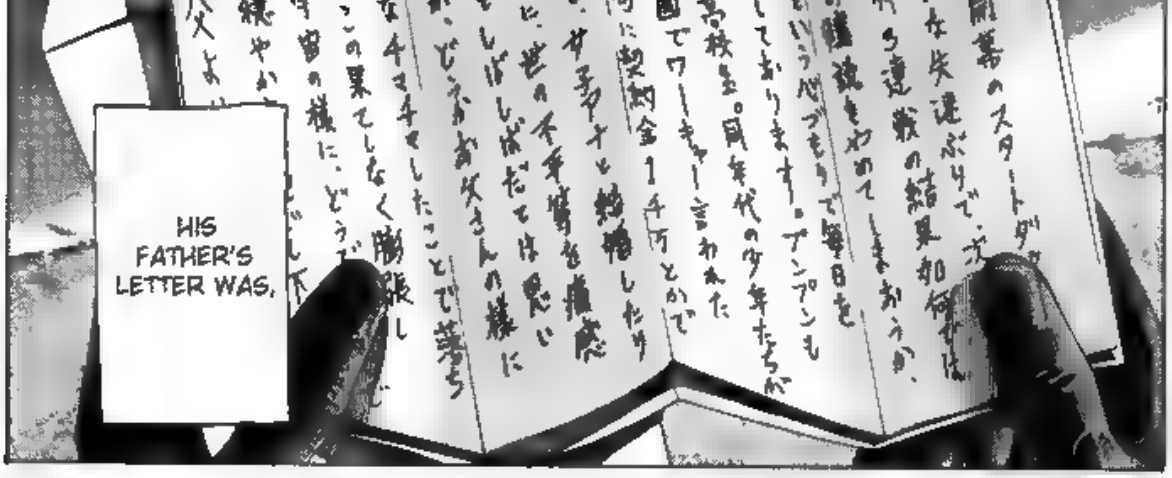

JUST WHAT LOOK IS THAT TO BE GIVING TO YOUR MOTHER.
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT.
HUH!?
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS NOW
AH, HERE!
GOOD GRIEF!

. AND FIX YOUR ATTI-TUDE FROM NOW ON.
I'M THE ONLY FAMILY YOU HAVE NOW, ALRIGHT!?
...YOU,
..LOOK LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND EVERTHING BUT YOU'RE JUST A KID WHO KNOWS NOTHING

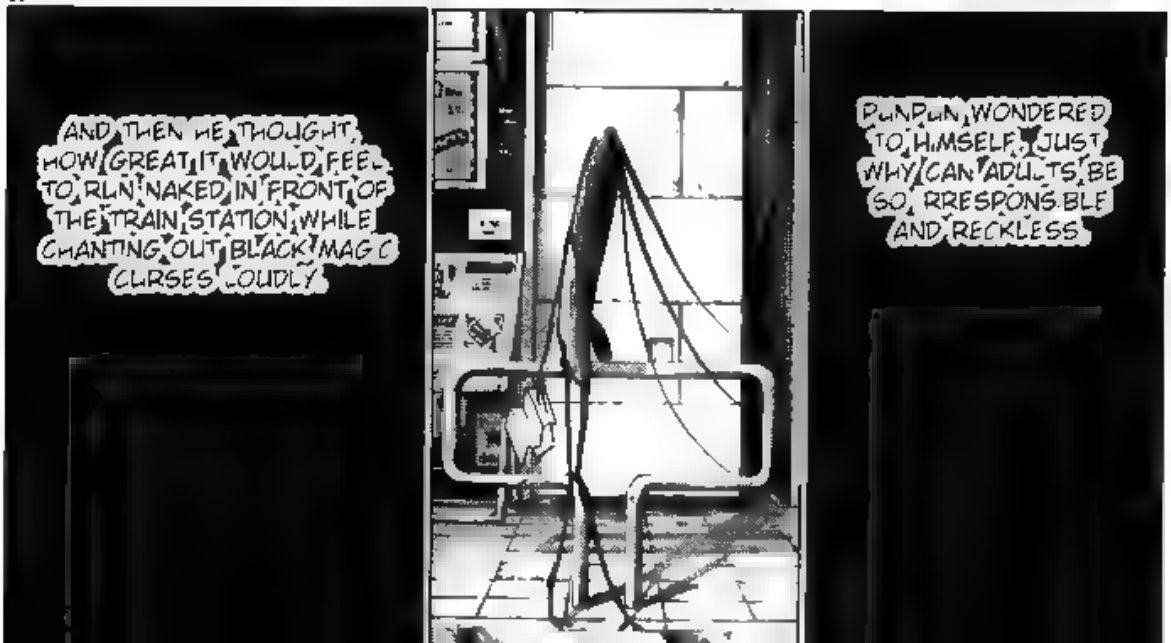
W-WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK
I DON'T UNDER-STAND..
YOU...
HEY...

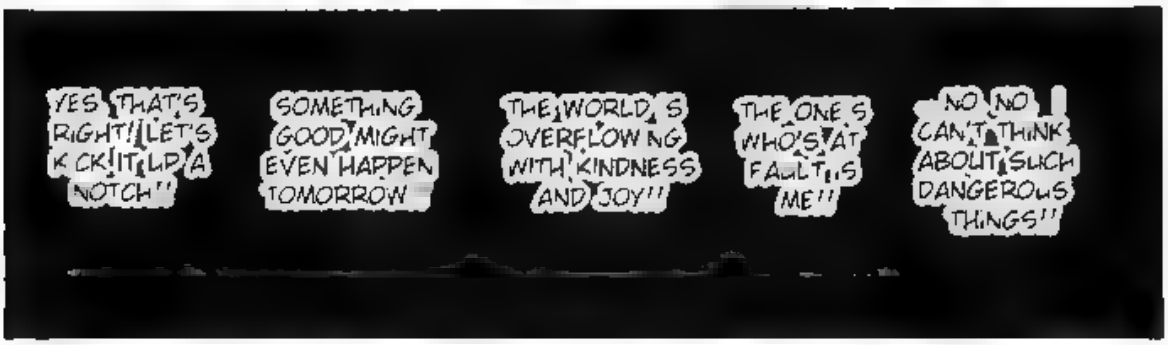
WHAT THE HELL IS IT!!
IF YOU HAVE SOME-THING TO SAY THEN SAY IT.
DAMN IT!!
YOU IDIOT!!
STOP CRYING!!
STOP PRETE-NDING LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS THE VICTIM!
YOU AND YOUR PATHETIC EGOTISM!
WHA!?
DON'T PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT'S HURT AROUND HERE!!
AHAHAGA ACK -:COUGH:- -:COUGH:-

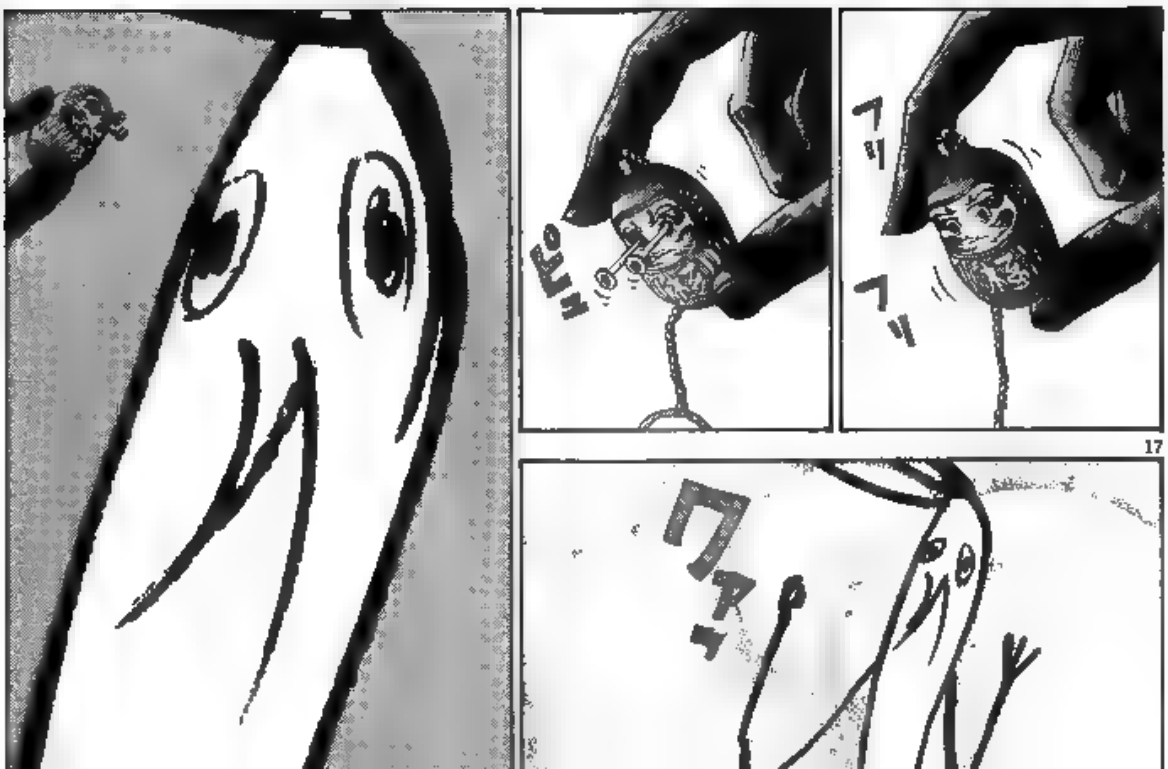
..BUT,
YOU CAN'T LIVE IF YOU'RE BOTHERED BY EVERY LITTLE THING..
EVEN I...
FEEL LIKE CRYING TOO SOMETIMES.
HAH ...
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU,
HAH ...
I GET SO ANNY-ONED,
YOU CAN'T BE SOFT.
..THAT'S ENOUGH.
I'M GOING TO INVITE A FRIEND OVER TONIGHT...
SO...
SO JUST PLEASE DON'T COME BACK UNTIL MORNING.


HIS FATHER'S LETTER WAS,

ABOUT GIANTS AND ALIENS AS ALWAYS,
BUT NEVER HAD HE FELT THAT IT WAS SO STUPID AS MUCH HE DID THAT DAY.


AND THEN HE THOUGHT, HOW GREAT IT WOULD FEEL TO RUN NAKED IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION WHILE CHANTING OUT BLACK MAGIC CURSES LOUDLY
PUNPUN WONDERED TO HIMSELF, JUST WHY CAN ADULTS BE SO IRRESPONSIBLE AND RECKLESS


YES, THAT'S RIGHT! LET'S KICK IT UP A NOTCH!!
SOMETHING GOOD MIGHT EVEN HAPPEN TOMORROW
THE WORLD'S OVERFLOWING WITH KINDNESS AND JOY!!
THE ONE'S WHO'S AT FAULT IS ME!!
NO, NO! I CAN'T THINK ABOUT SUCH DANGEROUS THINGS!!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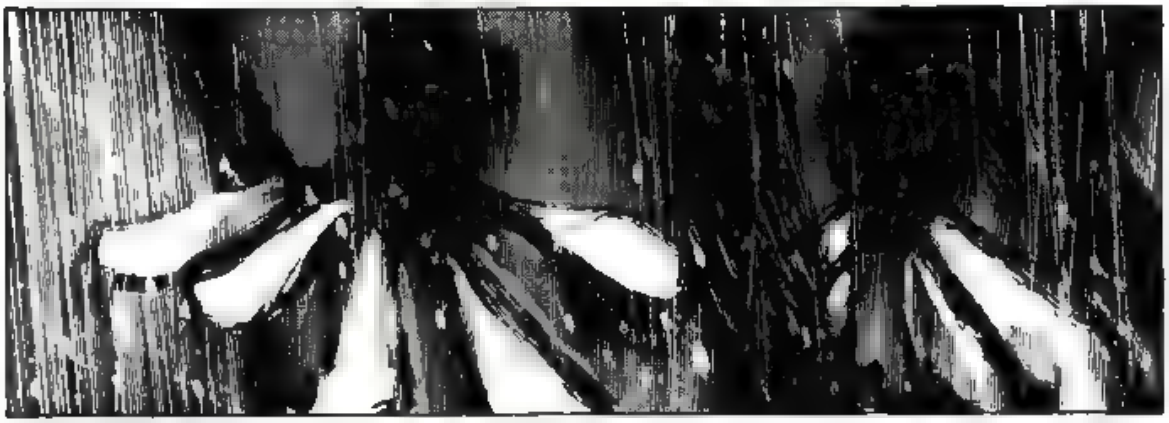
IMPOSSIBLE!!



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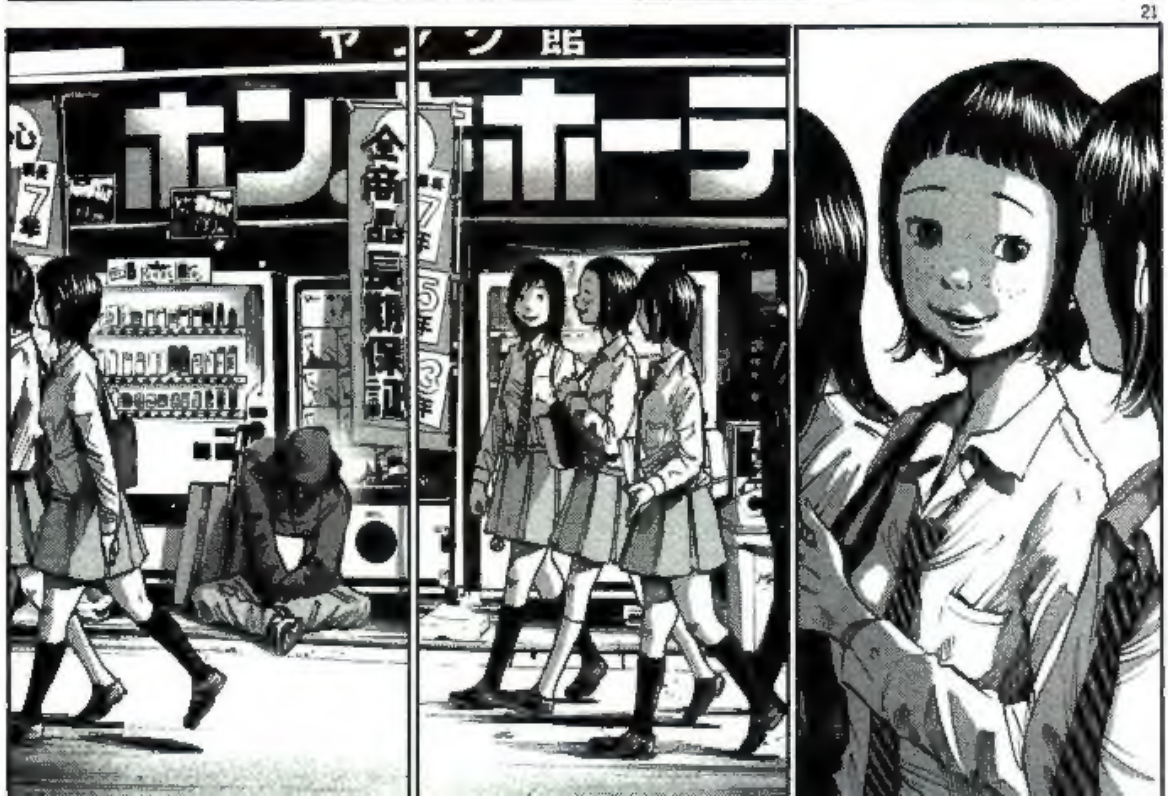
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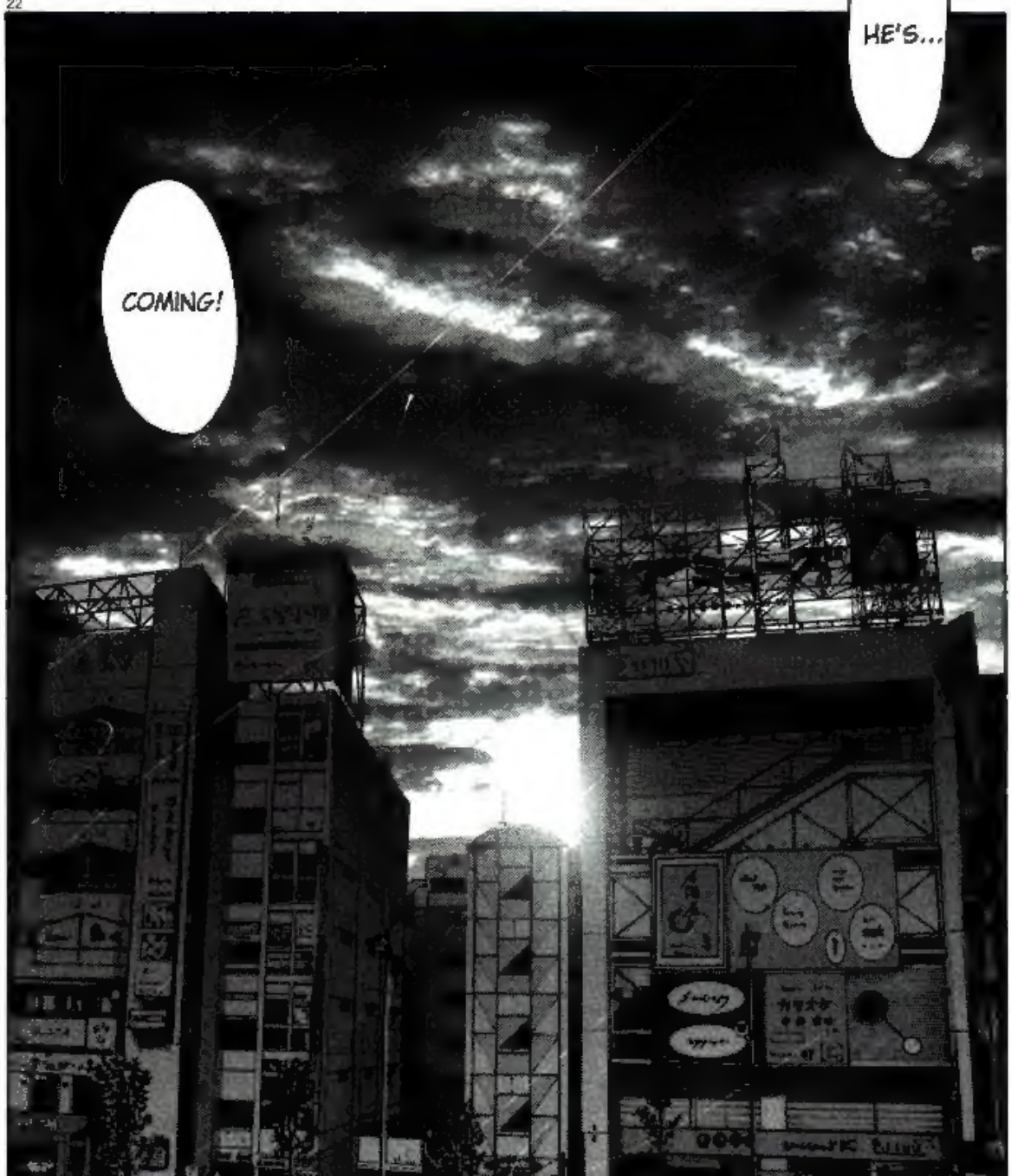

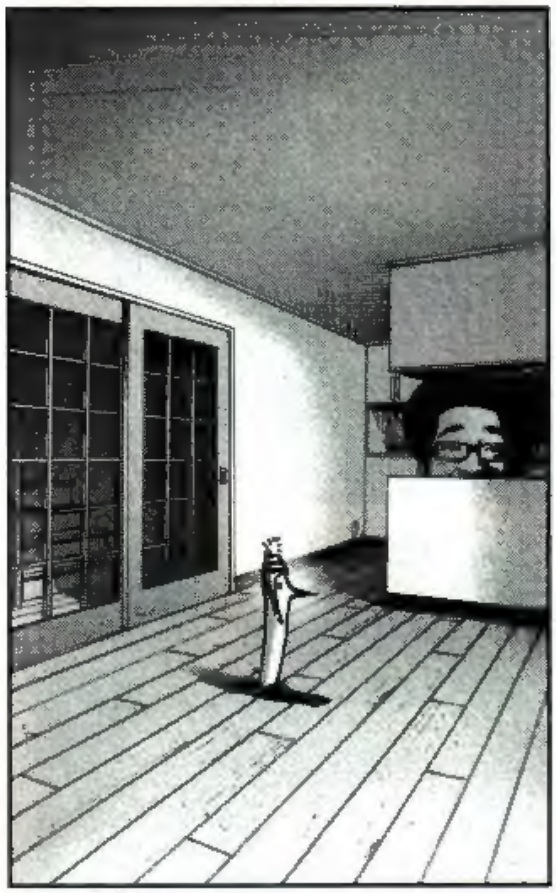

おやすみプンプン ❺

浅野いにお

背景アシスタント　鳥渕佑紀
　　佐藤五月

CGアシスタント　さいとうひさし

協力　くまつと
　　岩間康正
　　上原ゆう
　　久米貴史

DON'T EXPECT MORE PUNPUN CHAPTERS ANYTIME SOON UNFORTUNATELY. REFER TO PROJECTSTATUS.TXT ON MY MEDIAFIRE SITE FOR MORE INFO.

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